

MPs in turmoil over Clyde

By Norman Shrapnel

IT WAS an ugly scene in the Commons yesterday when the Secretary for Trade and Industry dropped his bomb on the Clyde. It was a dangerous scene, as stark and unpleasant as one can remember. Yet it had a brutal kind of genuineness, the credibility of a showdown.

When the beetle-browed Mr William Ross, the former Scottish Secretary, gets up to denounce the Government with his customary air of doom, this does not necessarily mean the end of the world or even the end of Scotland. When the clans rise behind him with vengeful cries, even that can be often accepted as just the normal tantrums of political life.

Noise, in short, is not always a sign of real anger. Often one side or the other will whip itself up into the sort of theatrical rage that contains hardly enough genuine heat to boil an egg. Nothing like that yesterday. They were well over boiling point, and if the Speaker had not cleared the way for an emergency debate—which he seemed to be granting almost before it was asked—there was no knowing where the thing might have ended.

We were back at the gulf, sheer and wide and not a bridge in sight. Across it they bayed at each other with what sounded like naked hate. The Tories were calm, and the Labour side saw it. The opposition was itself to blame and its howls were hypocritical, with Harold Wilson and Wedgwood Benn the spokesmen in a debate that was the Conservative view.

The noise got more horrid every second, the raving grew blacker. And into it marched the silent ranks of the unemployed, the thousands who will lose their jobs. Whoever is to blame, nobody takes them. Yet far from being about town, Mr Davies believed that private capital, particularly from Scotland—would come in.

It was this that riled the opposition most. Not a word of sympathy for the victims came from the Minister. And then Mr Benn pointed this out, there was still no word of sympathy from the Minister. This was very headfast and managerial of Mr Davies, but it was rank and cold. A gesture of regret would have cost him nothing. It is a common mistake these days to confuse coldness with sentimentality, and in that respect Mr Davies evidently a common man.

At this stage Mr Ross asked so black and furious that we half-expected him to cross the border and make a personal raid on the Government's front bench. But Mr Davies, at his best, clearly thought that any speech should be expressed by them but by Mr Benn. "This is pure evasion," Mr Davies was heard to shout across at Mr Benn in one of the rare moments when anything other than empty invective could be heard at all. "The responsibility lies with you, points the finger quite rightly at yourself." Whereupon Mr Davies, in a burst of comparative passion unusual in him, pointed his own finger at his shadow.

"This is not reconstruction, is butchery!" Mr Ross roared, and the clans howled their agreement. "Go and tell the men! Tell them how they are going to find work when the male unemployment is already 10 per cent!" When Mr Wilson got up it was the turn of the Tories to utter some of the rudest words permitted by their rule, with one or two extra thrown in. It was hard to hear what the Opposition was trying to say. We feared he was demanding a vote—not to listen to the Home Office, but to hear what the shipper himself might say about it.

Mr Heath leaned back nonchalantly amid the tumult, though such storms were alien to him. They are having their debate on Monday, and somebody had better batten down the hatches.

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Thousands to lose jobs in UCS breakup

By PETER RODGERS

More than two-thirds of the 8,500 jobs in the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' group may be lost by the end of the year, and the rest are still in danger, in spite of a Government rescue plan. About 400 men will in any case lose their jobs immediately, and unions believe that another 18,000 redundancies are likely at companies which supply UCS as the repercussions spread through Scottish industry.

Mr John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry, told the Commons yesterday that he has accepted a plan—which he later guessed may cost £10 millions—for saving two of the group's four yards. These are Linthouse (which is merely a steel fabrication plant) and Fairfield. Between them they employ only 2,500.

Mr Davies hedged his acceptance with a long string of ifs and buts, based on a scathing report by the four "wise men" he appointed last month to investigate the affairs of UCS. It slammed management, unions, and those who formed the yard—which, by implication, included Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Labour Minister of Technology at the time and prime mover behind the merger schemes.

At a press conference yesterday, Mr Davies confirmed that Scott Lithgow, on the Lower Clyde, was willing to take "up to 1,000 men from UCS by Christmas." The yards to be closed are Clydeside, which is the old John Brown yard where the three Queen liners were built, and Scotstoun.

Mr Davies told the Commons that some men "may be retained in work by other interests acquiring UCS facilities from the liquidator." For the rest, he said that "a considerable number are likely to be needed for the completion of ships already building. Thus only about 400 men in all will become immediately redundant, although others will do so at intervals during the months to come as ships are completed." He did not know the eventual total of redundancies.

One possibility for saving part of UCS disappeared yesterday when a spokesman for Mr Archibald Kelly, owner of the Lifford dockyard in Dublin, said that the chances of his buying part of the yard were now "minimal."

Mr Davies believed that private capital, particularly from Scotland—would come in.

Options open

The Minister repeatedly said he had left his options open. Asked if there was a time limit on the rescue, he said it very much depended on the liquidator, who had his own obligations to creditors, but Mr Davies hoped to "see clearly one way or other by the autumn."

The Government is likely to continue to back the liquidator with money until then. He had already received £4 millions from the Government to keep the yard going since it went into liquidation six weeks ago.

The report, which painted an almost totally black picture,

to help save the Fairfield and Linthouse yards. He said he was ready to provide some of the initial funds, but would not commit himself to paying the full cost of a rescue in Rolls-Royce style if private backers did not emerge.

Mr Davies said he did not personally know of sources for the private investment but "one or two sources have been mentioned." These included the Lord Provost of Glasgow, who Mr Davies recalled had said he had access to unidentified private investors in Scotland willing to supply £3 millions.

"There may be others: one or two have shown a very guarded interest," Mr Davies added.

The group which wrote the report was composed of Sir Alexander Glenn, Mr David Macdonald, and Mr A. Forbes McDonald. Lord Robens joined them later.

Mr Davies said that the principal finding in the report was that UCS was "doomed from the start as a result of the faulty concept of the structure within which it was organised; the burden of eventual loss with which it was added; and the inadequate management with which it was provided."

The report concluded that "any continuation of UCS in its present form would be wholly unjustified."

Mr Davies said the advisory group thinks that if the order book is concentrated at the Govan (Fairfields) and Linthouse sites; if production is standardised; if the management is radically reformed; and if much more productive and realistic working agreements can be negotiated with the men who would be employed there; then it should be possible to form a new company which would retain a viable capability on the Upper Clyde.

The Government accepted

Turn to back page, col. 2

Workers' takeover

By JOHN TORODE, Labour Correspondent

Stewards at the Upper Clyde Shipyard are today expected to announce plans for taking over the bankrupt company in an effort to force the Government to abandon any intention of paring the work force from over 8,000 to 2,500.

"In effect we will be taking over the whole management structure of the industry," Mr Jim Airlie claimed in London last night. He was speaking after meeting Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Opposition spokesman on shipbuilding, and some Scottish Labour MPs. Mr Airlie was leading a seven-man delegation which left for Scotland convinced that its campaign for direct action had the blessing of the Scottish MPs.

The stewards have not thought through just what occupation of the condemned yards will mean. Some want

to continue work on the 10 ships under construction.

But with supplies cut off, power halted, and no money to pay the wage bill this must be a brief and symbolic protest.

Mr Airlie, however, pointed to a more effective line of action. "There are £30 millions-worth of ships under construction in UCS and they are not moving unless we are consulted," he said. The implication is that the present workers would use a mixture of strikes and direct action to stop a reduced UCS work force from completing the 10 ships or from towing them away to other yards.

They would be telling the owners that their £30 millions investment would rust on Clydeside until agreement was reached with the workers on the future of the yard.

"We are operating a new tactic," Mr Airlie said. "We have no alternative but to struggle. If we are defeated, we'll turn the whole of Scotland upside down." He prophesied aid from other Glasgow workers and from the Scottish TUC.

The stewards dismissed the Government advisers' plans for the future of UCS as "far more severe than we expected" and were convinced that it was the first stage in the "phasing out" of shipbuilding on the Upper Clyde.

A member of the delegation, Mr Jim Reid, a convener of stewards and a Glasgow councillor, said: "This committee had a constant dialogue with Mr Davies and this is a political report in line with the Ridley document—a reference to a secret document drawn up before the election by Mr Nicholas Ridley, now Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry. As revealed in the Guardian, it suggested 'a Government butcher to cut up UCS and to sell (cheaply) to Lower Clyde and others the assets of UCS.'"

Mr Reid said the latest report was a plot by members of the Government to destroy shipbuilding in the Upper Clyde. "It is the height of impudence for Mr Davies to ask us to cooperate in our own destruction, an act of butchery, a formula for the eventual closure of the entire company."

Row in the Commons and advisers' report, page 4; leader comment, page 10; Glasgow reaction, back page



Earlier election for Labour leadership

By IAN AITKEN

Mr Wilson and the Shadow Cabinet moved last night to head off any crisis in the leadership of the Labour Party before Parliament reaches its decision in October on the Common Market.

Mr Douglas Houghton, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, obtained the approval of Labour MPs for a proposal to amend the party rules so as to enable the annual election for the leadership to take place immediately after Parliament reassembles in October instead of waiting for the opening of the new session in November.

He coupled this suggestion with a six-point code of conduct for Labour MPs during the remaining stages of the so-called Great Debate on the Common Market. The first point called for full confidence in Mr Wilson as party leader.

These proposals are understood to have been unanimously agreed by the Shadow Cabinet on Wednesday night—implying that Mr Roy Jenkins and other pro-Market members who are Shadow Ministers on the Parliamentary committee gave their endorsement to the defence of Mr Wilson's position as leader in the face of the attacks being made on it in the press and elsewhere.

Mr Houghton's code added that the potential threat to the strength and unity of the party was due to a constant stream of abuse in the press directed at Mr Wilson personally. The PLP could not go along with that, he said.

His third point was that the debate should be confined to the issues without reference to personalities; and his fourth called upon all party members to desist in future from "all references, conjectural or otherwise, to what a Labour Government or Labour Ministers might have done in present or other hypothetical circumstances." This was a clear reference to public statements by Lord George Brown, Mr George Thomson, Mr Michael Stewart and other former Ministers that a Labour Cabinet would have accepted the present terms for entry into the Common Market, and to counter statements by anti-Market ex-Ministers.

Mr Houghton added: "If any one is now in process of drafting a letter to the 'Times', he should now tear it up."

His fifth point was that the debate should be conducted on grounds of mutual tolerance with full respect for the personal opinions of individuals. He insisted that differing opinions need not be allowed to divide the Labour Party. Personal hostility had so far been markedly absent from the

debate, and the Shadow Cabinet hoped it would stay like that.

His sixth and final point was perhaps more painful in private than in public. He insisted that the Shadow Cabinet now felt that TV and other public debates between Labour MPs on opposite sides of the European argument might well be discontinued in future.

If MPs wanted to debate the matter, he said, "let them debate it with the Tories and not with our own comrades."

Mr Houghton invited the crowded meeting of Labour MPs to give "spontaneous approval" to these guide lines for the debate. He got their endorsement by acclamation.

The Shadow Cabinet's proposals for speeding up the election of the party leader in October means that Labour MPs will be invited to submit nominations as soon as they return to Westminster after the summer recess.

It is proposed that nominations should be returned to the party secretary by 12 noon on October 19—a day on which the PLP has in any case been summoned to meet. It is hoped that, with a bit of luck, only Mr Wilson will be nominated, and that Mr Houghton will be able to tell the meeting he has been re-elected unopposed. But even if there is another candidate, the intention is to rush through the ballot in time to be sure that Mr Wilson, (or his rival, in the unlikely event of a defeat) will be unassailably established as leader of the Opposition before the six-day debate on the Common Market begins.

The party is, however, sticking to standing orders for the election for the posts of deputy leader, the chairman of the party, and Chief Whip, and the 12 seats on the Shadow Cabinet. They will be elected at the normal time, after the Commons has reached its decision on the Common Market has been prorogued, and has re-assembled for the 1971-2 session.

European comment on Wilson, page 2; Poll swings to EEC, page 6; Roy Hattersley, MP, page 10.

Spain is to help tourists

THE SPANISH Ministry of Information and Tourism is to appoint a "troubleshooter" to investigate complaints about holiday overbookings. The move follows a meeting in Madrid between a delegation of British travel agents and the Ministry. (Peter Horrey, page 2.)

Bomb Geneva police said they had arrested two young Britons on charges of demanding a ransom of £1 million for revealing the whereabouts of a bomb on a jumbo jet flight. The police said the call was made just after a TWA jet left Zurich for New York. The plane was searched for three hours at Shannon: no bomb was found.

Offer Mr Michael Webster, chairman of Watney's last night made a new bid, worth more than £46 millions, for Trumans, the London brewery group. The bid is worth at least 42p a share, compared with 41p offered by Grand Metropolitan Hotels. (Report, page 13.)

Aide Mr Tom McCaffrey, aged 49, is to succeed Mr Henry James as the Prime Minister's press secretary at 10 Downing Street. He has been chief information officer at the Home Office since 1966. Mr James is to become head of the information directorate at the Department of the Environment.

Festival Mr Stephen Reiss has resigned as general manager and secretary of the Edinburgh Festival over "differences of approach." He had been general manager for 16 years.

Butter Butter prices have been stabilised, claimed the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Prior, in the Commons yesterday. A sharp jump in imports and a big increase in stocks was the cause, he said.

Charter for the rural mini-bus

By our Motoring Correspondent

Mr John Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, yesterday announced in the Commons new bus licensing proposals to help rural areas. The changes, he said, were caused by "a crisis in public transport caused by the tremendous and engulfing wave of private cars."

Cars and mini-buses would be exempt from road service licensing. So would tours, excursions, and school buses. No public service vehicle seating fewer than eight people would require a PSV licence.

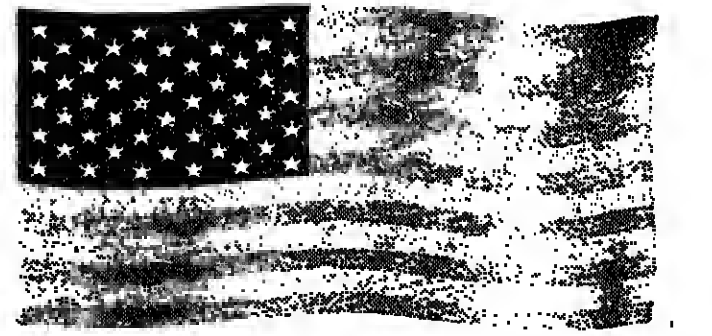
If his proposals become law, car owners will be able to give lifts for payment and operators will be able to start mini-bus services without tussles about the route with the major bus companies. The Rural District Councils' Association welcomed the proposals as "a charter and a glimmer of hope for all country folk without cars."

The proposals were greeted with reserve, however, by the Passenger Vehicle Operators' Association, which represents operators of fare-paying services. The association was "totally and utterly" opposed to the operation of any fare-paying service not under the control of the Traffic Commissioners.

A prediction that the bus would regain much of the business lost in recent years to cars was made yesterday by Mr Eldon Griffiths, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment. He was speaking at the inauguration of a new express bus service to Stevenage. Mr Griffiths declared that the bus "must stage a comeback if our urban environment is to remain civilised."

Mr Griffiths went on: "We shall need to invest more in various forms of public transport. We must give the bus a clear measure of physical priority—for example in bus-only lanes. And I suspect, as time goes by, we shall have to reconsider our current presumption that the car has an inalienable right to monopolise large areas of our expensive town centre real estate. It does not."

The Department of the Environment last night agreed that this was the first statement of its kind to be made by a Conservative and one of the few attacks on the car to be made other than by non-political pressure groups. Sensitivity to reaction from the motor industry has traditionally kept the subject out of Ministerial speeches.



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OVERSEAS NEWS

Spain tightens hotel controls to end holiday mix-ups

From PETER HARVEY: Madrid, July 29

The Spanish Government and British travel agents today worked out a comprehensive plan "to end package holiday problems once and for all." An international control commission, linking British travel agencies, Spanish hotels, and the Spanish Government, will be set up. There will be tighter control of advance bookings and all contracts between travel agencies and hotels will be vetted by the Government.

Agreement on these measures was reached here today during a four-hour meeting between a delegation from the Association of British Travel Agents and the Spanish Government at the Ministry of Information and Tourism. Spanish concern at the worsening problems within the industry was underlined by the unexpected presence at today's meeting of the Tourism and Information Minister, Don Sanchez Bella.

The main points of today's agreement are:

1. The establishment of the international control commission "to prevent holiday mix-ups." Its job will be to coordinate all tourist activities and to assist Government investigators dealing with any future problems.

2. All hotels will be required to supply weekly reports to officials of the Ministry and Tourism spelling out the up-to-date picture of room availability and booking status.

3. The Spanish Government will give British travel firms regular reports of hotel construction progress to prevent the booking of tourists at unfinished hotels.

4. The Spanish Government will appoint a tourist "Ombudsman" to settle unresolved problems as they arise. "At any time of the day or night this man will be able to come in and sort things out," officials explained.

Speaking after today's meeting, Spain's director-general of tourism, Mr. Juan Carlos Esteban Bassols, said, "We are going to bring in a massive dose of preventive medicine. From now on we intend to detect the

storm before it breaks and we will put up the umbrella so no one gets wet."

Senior Bassols said his Government already had ample and wide legal powers to penalise hotels for any infringements of the strict regulations governing tourist activity in this country. But, he said, obviously what is needed is prevention rather than repression. He said both the ABTA delegation and the Government officials at today's meeting were alarmed at reports of overbookings, unfinished hotels, and unhappy

worthwhile and very valuable."

"I am returning to London tonight and I will be reporting to our council and we will be moving very rapidly into the stage of electing members for this joint control commission and getting the commission in work. I expect that everything will be functioning by the time next season begins, but we must start now to stamp out the trouble."

In London one of the tour organisers involved in the latest Spanish holiday row said he was giving the hotel concerned "the benefit of the doubt" over the incident, which involved 40 schoolchildren.

Teachers from Preston complained about "appalling, sub-standard rooms" at the Hotel Sol Mar, at Calica, about 30 miles from Barcelona, according to a report from Madrid. Their party of exhausted youngsters, from Ribblesdale Hall secondary school, had to sleep head-to-toe in bunks in crowded rooms after being told that the hotel was full.

Mr Robert Martin, general manager of the School Tour Service Ltd. of Enfield, Middlesex, said: "At this stage I would like to give the hotel the benefit of the doubt and say they just made a mistake on this occasion. To be fair to them, we have worked with them for the past three years and it has always gone well."

Mr Martin said this was the first complaint. "However, we have said in no uncertain terms that we don't expect a repetition of such an incident."

The firm's agent in Spain had told him that everything had now been sorted out and the party leader, Mr Thomas James, was "happy." The party was still in the same hotel, but now had extra rooms.

The meeting, which resulted in both sides admitting that fault could be laid at either doorstop, surprised observers here with its positive outcome. There had been fears that the negotiators would attempt to put the blame for present problems on the opposite side.

The head of the ABTA delegation, and deputy managing director of Blue Sky Tours, Mr Robert Waller, agreed with Mr Bassols and said that the conference had been "extremely

tourists — "and it will not be permitted to continue."

The prospect of one day seeing a Labour Prime Minister challenging certain parts of the Treaty of Rome was a justification for the apprehension of London's future partners. At the moment, Mr Wilson's right about turns the more unstable when his two successive Foreign Secretaries, Lord George-Brown and Mr Stewart, his Minister of European Affairs, Mr Thomson, and his Minister of Finance, Mr Jenkins, had stated publicly that the conditions negotiated by the Conservative Government would have been accepted by a Labour Government.

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his successor, who had modified the rigour of his economic policy most opportunely. "Le Monde" comments: "The principles of expansion contained in the latest programme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer do not, perhaps, constitute the best technical preparations for entry into the Common Market, but they showed without the slightest ambiguity Mr Heath's determination to give Europe priority above every other objective, and to accept all the consequences of a choice which, for him, went back more than 20 years."

"Shall we ever be able to say as much of Mr Wilson?" asks "Le Monde." Germany's "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" commented: "It is interesting that it is always the experts on the European matter and the statesmanlike politicians who choose Europe. The over-zealous Wilson has finally served them. Thus the Labour Party is withdrawn leadership."

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Israel tightens security as demolition continues

From WALTER SCHWARZ: Jerusalem, July 29

FURN authority by Israeli authorities today prevented further demonstrations in Gaza against the mass removal of refugees from the larger camps there. Jabelia camp, which houses 35,000 refugees and where bulldozers are at work demolishing huts to make way for roads, was last night declared a "military area" after a visit by General Dayan. Police also gave "protection" to the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) to stop demonstrations there.

Making the camps a military area means that they are closed to journalists. It was explained that Jabelia, which also houses the camps which have 32,000 refugees — were closed "to prevent people from demonstrating for the benefit of foreign journalists."

General Dayan yesterday visited refugees in their new houses at El Arish in the Northern Sinai. The new houses — which were renovated after being abandoned by employees, are indisputably better than most of the refugees' huts. More than thirty families have already

moved in at El Arish and about 180 more families have been moved to other centres, including Gaza town and Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Some, it was reported today, have been moved as far as the West Bank. Moving Gaza refugees to the West Bank was one of Israel's early objectives after the Six-Day War, but it was abandoned after opposition from guerrillas and Arab civilians.

Arab opposition to the present rehousing plan, which was expressed yesterday in token strikes and small demonstrations, seemed mainly concerned with the high level of unemployment. The second objective of reducing the numbers of the larger camps or whether it will develop into a wholesale resettlement programme.

It becomes real unsettling, Arab protests on political grounds will be backed by UNRWA, the terms of whose charter precludes settlement. Sir John Rene, chief of UNRWA's Middle East operations, arrived yesterday from Beirut and spent today conferring with his own and Israeli officials. He was apparently trying to find out what Israeli plans were, but it was not clear if he was successful.

The Israeli policy is not fully defined as yet. Members of an ad hoc ministerial committee accompanied General Dayan to Gaza yesterday and the committee is due to meet next Tuesday after the Cabinet meeting also scheduled for that day.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Minister of Transport, who had charge of refugee affairs for three years after the Six-Day War and who is a member of the new committee, said tonight that while a solution to the refugee problem had to await a peace settlement, he was "against stagnation and against the status quo." The size of the camps had to be

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Summit debates Jordan battles

From DAVID HIRST

Beirut, July 29

President Sadat arrived Tripoli today for what is described as a summit conference to discuss the latest fighting between army and guerrillas in Jordan.

It looks like being the most depleted Arab summit yet held, for apart from Sadat as President of a summit, only two other heads of State, from North and South Yemen, have so far arrived. President Assad of Syria is reported to be on his way.

Not all Arab States were invited in the first place. Sadat's plan was to bring together those leaders who, with the guerrillas, signed the Cairo agreement that ended the Jordanian civil war last September. Under this agreement, signatory States were authorised to apply sanctions against any party — guerrilla or Jordanian regime — which violated its terms.

Gadafi's invitation was somewhat peremptory or more like a summons according to some Beirut newspapers, as this is seen as one reason for the poor attendance. Another more important reason is that Gadafi had a highly partisan purpose from the start. The signatory of the Cairo agreement whom he did not invite was King Hussein.

In his original summit call, Gadafi proposed that the main item on the agenda should be "armed intervention."

Jordan. Such a drastic course of action, Syria's intervention last September showed, would be unrealistic.

Though Sadat has not ruled it out in advance, he appeared very keen to get the signatory States to "hear" Gadafi's call. According to "Al-Ahram" it was originally to be a Foreign Ministers meeting, but the gravity of the Jordanian and general Arab situation decided to go to Tripoli.

Citing a Libyan official, Cairo said that the conference would discuss ways and means of boycotting Jordan, and would presumably involve a broader range of the sanctions, which Syria, by denying Jordan freight transit rights across its territory to Lebanon and the Mediterranean, has already taken. But whatever course Sadat does back he has a reckoning with the danger that deeper his quarrel with Hussein, the greater the pressure on King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to stand by his fellow-monarch.

In Damascus, the Palestine Liberation Organisation said today that fighting was still going on between Jordanian troops and guerrillas and that the end of the conflict was still far off.

The PLO newspaper "Fatah" alleged that Israeli forces were helping Jordanian forces to harass the commandos.

appointments, he was immediately able to see the Foreign Secretary at short notice, as a courtesy.

The next move by Britain is expected at the United Nations where a two-page letter by the British delegate, Sir Colin Crowe, sent to U Thant, is being circulated to all delegations.

This says that the Libyan action in forcing down an aircraft and taking its passengers from it is "inexcusable" and a grave departure from international usage. Presumably the next step could be a formal request by Britain for a special session of the Security Council.

way, in favour of the Libyans. In these circumstances the attempt to exert pressure by diplomatic means must be regarded as second best. Mr Godber in his session with the Cabinet angrily pointed out that the British Ambassador in Tripoli, Mr Peter Tripp, has been trying for a week to get an interview either with the President or his deputy, Major Jalloud.

They have apparently been "too busy" to receive him. By contrast, Mr Godber pointed out that recently when Major Jalloud arrived unexpectedly in Britain, with no advance

Learning the U2 lesson

From ADAM RAPHAEL

Washington, July 29

THE UNITED STATES is reported to have suspended flights over Communist China by manned SR71 high altitude reconnaissance spy planes to avoid any incident that might prejudice President Nixon's visit to Peking.

Administration officials refused to comment publicly today in memories of the U2 incident in 1960 which forced the cancellation of the planned summit between President Eisenhower and Mr Khrushchev are still very much alive in Washington.

Today's report in the "New York Times" quotes unnamed Administration officials as saying the US would also cease reconnaissance drone missions over China, but would continue satellite reconnaissance. The satellites are reported to do most of the basic photographic reconnaissance over China but are supplemented by SR71s stationed in Okinawa when objects of particular interest are spotted and greater detail is needed.

The SR71, successor to the U2 spy plane, flies at more than 70,000 miles an hour and at altitudes considerably in excess of the former's 70,000ft. It is believed to be invulnerable to either Chinese surface-to-air missiles or interceptor aircraft. It can provide photographic coverage of about 60,000 square miles in an hour.

Peking has publicly protested about nearly 500 incursions of its air space by US aircraft.

Mafiosi charged

Eighty-five alleged mafiosi were charged with association to commit crime by the Palermo Deputy Public Prosecutor yesterday. The charge carries prison sentences ranging from one to seven years. The mafiosi are charged with the intended crime involves the use of arms.

WEST & WALES (HTV) — 3.15 p.m. Land of the Giants. 3.20 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.25 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.30 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.35 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.40 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.45 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.50 p.m. The World of the Giants. 3.55 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.00 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.05 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.10 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.15 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.20 p.m. The World of the Giants. 4.25 p.m. The World

Senators angered by silence

From RICHARD SCOTT: Washington, July 29

Resentment in the Senate at its exclusion not only from formulation of foreign policy but also from information about what the Administration is doing has boiled up again. The Executive was even accused yesterday of showing "a certain contempt" for Congress. Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, claimed that Dr Henry Kissinger had established "a newspaper bureau of foreign affairs" in the White House.

Neither he nor his staff of 140 were held accountable to Congress and they refused to testify before any congressional committee.

Senator Fulbright said that recent Presidents had been "playing God." None had been thought infallible while in the Senate, but in the White House they had created the illusion of infallibility. The Russians went through this. They got over the cult of the personality. I don't know why we can't.

Senators Mathias (Republican, Maryland) and Symington (Democrat, Missouri) recognised that the key could be control by Congress of the purse strings. But had Congress the guts to use it, Senator Mathias wondered. Senator Symington obviously doubted it, and regretted this.

Much of the criticism has been based on the Government's handling of the Indo-China war and revelations in the Pentagon papers. But a more recent example of the deception, or at least the obfuscation practised by this Administration, has been over the supply of military equipment to Pakistan.

Fighting in East Pakistan began on March 25. On April 12, the State Department said that there had been an embargo on military aid to Pakistan and India since the fighting in 1965. A single exception had been announced in favour of Pakistan last October, but "there is no equipment in the pipeline; and none is being delivered under that exception."

The spokesman, however, admitted that a modest amount of "non-lethal military equipment, spare parts for equipment already in Pakistani hands, and some ammunition," were still being sold to Pakistan.

Three days later the Department spokesman appeared to clarify the matter with the assurance that "in short, no arms have been provided to the Government of Pakistan since the beginning of this crisis, and the question of deliveries will be kept under review in the light of developments."

A week later the Senate received an even more reassuring letter from an assistant secretary to Senator Fulbright. This said: "We have been informed by the Department of Defence that no military items have been provided to the Government of Pakistan since the beginning of this crisis, and the question of deliveries will be kept under review in the light of developments."

Testimony by a deputy assistant secretary on April 30 even seemed to retract the earlier admission by the Department

US is urged to 'go metric'

From VICTOR COHN: Washington, July 29

A 10-year programme to switch the United States to the metric system was urged yesterday by the Secretary of Commerce, Mr Maurice H. Stans. If approved by Congress, it would mean a vast change in every American's habits and practices.

Industry would have to reconvert measuring and manufacturing machinery, farmers and shirt buyers would have to learn new measurements, and housewives would have to buy new sets of measuring cups — and refer to converters in their purses to learn that a metre of cloth equals 39.37 in.

But the 100-year American football field and many other entrenched measurements, Mr Stans reassured Congress, will probably survive. In other words, he said, as he endorsed the findings of a three-year study carried out by the National Bureau of Standards at the request of Congress,

"the rule of reason must apply."

The Bureau of Standards report says that the changeover may cost manufacturers between \$10,000 and \$40,000 millions over 10 years. Yet falling to make it, the study finds, could eventually cost even more in jobs and trade in an age when the US has become the only major nation that has not decided to go metric.

Also, it argues, the US inevitably will be forced to go more and more metric anyway, and doing it by plan would cost far less than doing it slowly and haphazardly.

Mr Stans argues in terms of trade — the US may have an unfavourable world trade balance to 1971 for the first time this century — of relations with other countries, national security, and adoption of world-wide standards in a smaller and smaller world. — Washington Post.

A VERY rich Arab indeed, lying beside his pool with a loog gin and tonic (this was behind a suitably high wall), gently and quite kindly explained to me the politics of his oil.

"You realise of course that you have now paid every penny of the cost of that war with Israel. He was talking about the OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) conference and price agreement in Tehran earlier this year. I had confessed I had not quite seen it like that.

"The Shah was delighted." About the money? "Well, yes, he doubled his money and got a lot more than he thought he would. But he was really pleased because he was in OPEC and we all came to Tehran and let him play host. He had been wanting to join us for a long time. He was delighted when we gave him something to do."

More than a bit unkind. A bit of spite, perhaps, in return for that lumpy Indian superlative "rich" which Arab affairs "Well, yes, I know what you mean. But you really shouldn't worry too much about that. Though it does seem a bit odd."

A friend prompted him: "Get up our noses." A smile, regretting the phrase. "We do know the Shah very well, you know."

The Shah's nearest and most troublesome Arab neighbours, the Iraqis, would never say such a thing. But then they do not have oil. In more than one of the tiny oil-producing Arab sheikhdoms which face Iran across the Persian Gulf, members of the ruling family will talk of their neighbours (not their own) fears of eventually being taken over by Iraq, or Saudi Arabia.

Not immediately, of course. Not for many years after British withdrawal. The rest of the Arab world is too preoccupied with Israel: is militarily too weak; is so divided that it will be possible for the rulers of these tiny patches of oil-rich

Shadow boxing over the Persian Gulf

ALAN SMITH reports that Iran's claims to three tiny islands is the one factor that puzzles the rulers on the Gulf's Arabian shore

desert to play off the major Arab Powers against each other and remain in a delicately balanced independence. They make it sound plausible.

What they do not do is mention any threat, real or imagined, from Iran — apart from the immediate dispute over the three tiny islands in the mouth of the Gulf. The rulers accept, as their silence confirms, the Shah's statement that he has no territorial ambitions and that security in the Gulf is a matter for the Gulf States themselves to decide.

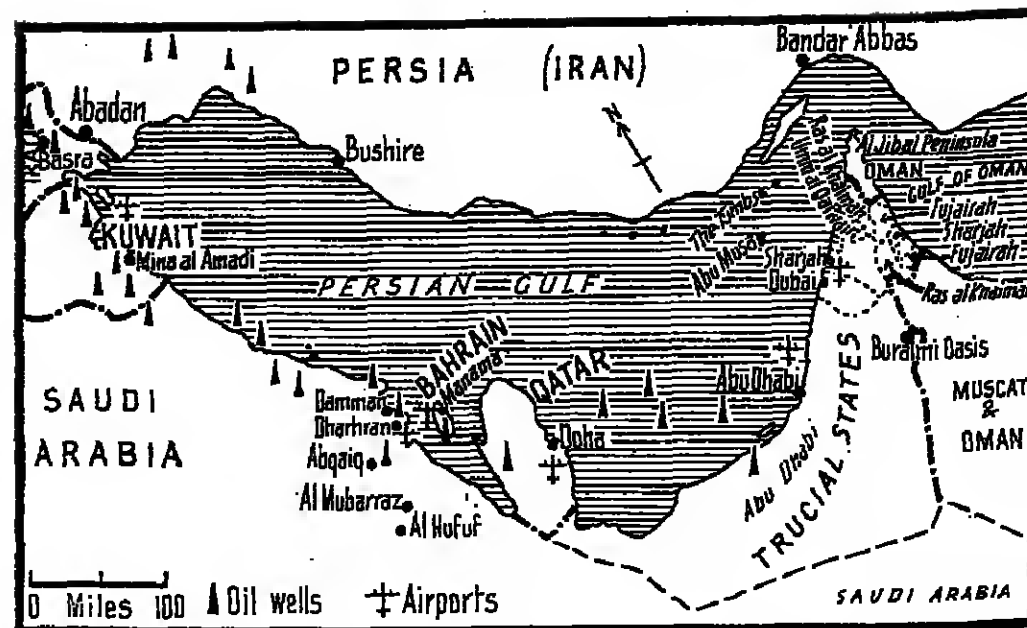
The Gulf States listen fondly to the radio war between Iraq and Iran: it is part of the balance of things, it is suggested depressingly. When Iraq sent envoys round the Arab world, calling for a common front against Iran's imperialism in the Gulf, the rulers in the Gulf welcomed them politely. But they are not altogether happy about Iraq, of course, trying to make a pan-Arab case out of three tiny Gulf islands. They were as relieved as anyone when it became apparent earlier this month that the Arab world had

too much on its plate to be roused over the Gulf. It is a private, rich man's war in the Gulf, in which outsiders are not welcome. Kuwait, the oldest hand at buying independence with carefully disposed oil revenues and a sturdy, public Arabism, may play. So the world is treated to a series of angry public statements between Iran and Kuwait, over the disputed Iranian claim to the islands.

The two Foreign Ministers, friends of long-standing, and themselves caught up in a diplomatic whirlpool of m-o-f visits and intentional-unintentional snubs.

Iran was rather pointedly made to realise the disadvantage of not having a free press (it makes it difficult to disclaim responsibility for press attacks). But then, in the cause of Gulf stability but without prejudice in the issue of the islands, both countries privately agreed to lay off, and the campaigns against each other have been wound down in the past week.

What is surprising about this shadow-boxing (with the occasional jab for real) is that the



Shah of Iran appears to take it all so seriously.

On the Arabian side of the Gulf, the rulers watch the Shah steering his delicate course between the Russians — who have 2,000 technicians in Iran, building a pipeline, steel plant, coal mine, and machine tool factory — and the Americans, who have financed strategic communications through the Central Treaty Organisation and have a bilateral security agreement.

They watch the Shah gleefully accepting the role now explicitly mapped out for him by the Americans — that of guarantor of the Gulf, buffer between the Soviet Union and the Gulf oilfields. They follow the tortuous convolutions of British diplomacy, as Britain tries to pull out of the Arab side of the Gulf while at the same time building up the military and diplomatic strength of the Iranian side. They laugh, with everyone else, at the open feuding between British and American service chiefs which erupts all round the Gulf (and notably in Tehran, where it is a minor diplomatic scandal). Then they fully

expect the Shah to work hard to build on the considerable ties he has with his Arab neighbours: the extensive Persian labouring force working happily in Kuwait, the religious (though by no means political) link with at least half of the population of Bahrain, the historical links with Dubai and other sheikhs among the small sheikdoms.

They see the Shah graciously accepting United Nations findings that the Bahrainis do not wish to be Iranian, renouncing his claim to the island, and accepting the considerable diplomatic standing that this gives him. An act of statesmanship, British diplomats keep calling it.

And then, as the Arabs see it, the Shah, riding the crest of the imperial wave, spins it all by pressing his claim to the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. His envoys are digging up ancient Admiralty charts and have been hunting through the East India Company's library in London — just as the sheikhs themselves do from time to time.

He makes such an issue of the sovereignty of these rocky wastes, they say, that it has

become almost impossible to judge the issue and let him acquire them quietly in return for some subtle consideration. He has declined to make it clear, diplomatically, exactly what he wants the islands for. No one knows of any oil thereabouts (except conceivably near Abu Musa), and no one is inclined to let Iran play games with six-inch limits round islands as small as these.

Radar on the islands is not particularly useful strategically. They are almost indefensible under air attack, and could not control the Gulf (though someone could launch a hit-and-run attack on a tanker or two from them).

The Arabs blame Iran for needlessly inflaming the issue of the islands and for making the task of adjustment in the Gulf to British withdrawal very much more difficult. Much diplomatic effort on their part, they say, stretching their case a bit, has won a period of relative calm over the past three weeks in which it may be possible to work something out. But what they ask, is the Shah doing, playing it rough in the Gulf?

Nixon gives hope to Taiwanese

From SELIG S. HARRISON: Taipei, July 29

of 1,478 members. Eero the city of Taipei was declared a federally administered municipality with Mr Kao appointed mayor after he regularly defeated Kuomintang (KMT) election candidates and began to turn the city into an independent Formosan power centre.

Faced with iron control by the secret police, some Formosans, like Mr Kao, have made their peace with powerful KMT factions and pin their hopes on evolutionary change within the regime. Others carry on underground anti-Government activity in the name of a loosely organised, faction-ridden "Formosan Independence Movement." But all appear to feel that the Nixon visit holds more promise than risks for the Formosan majority.

In contrast to the deep fears expressed by KMT supporters, most politically conscious Formosans believe that President Nixon is not preparing to bargain away the island and will not find it necessary to do so in order to normalise relations with Peking. The key

Communist objective, in this view, is big Power status capped by admission to the UN Security Council.

The Formosans and their allies among maverick mainlanders are divided over the desirability of continued UN General Assembly representation for Taipei as the "Republic of China." Advocates of reform within the framework of the present regime see UN status as the most secure foundation for the slow, evolutionary approach, while militant elements contend that the whole structure here should be overturned to make way for an independent Formosan republic, whether or not the new state can win immediate admission to the UN.

The venerable dean of independent intellectuals here, 74-year-old Lei Chen, speaks positively of a "two China" accommodation within the UN. Formerly editor of the widely read "Free China," a main-

lander, and an ex-member of the KMT, Mr Lei was gaoled in 1960 when he called for the creation of an elected provincial governorship in Formosa and tried to form an opposition party bridging the gap between Formosans and mainlanders. He was released last September, 10 years to the day after his arrest, and now lives quietly in a remote suburb of Taipei under the surveillance of 11 policemen who take turns watching his house and following him by car and motorcycle whenever he goes out.

Some of what he said was not for publication, but Mr Lei welcomed an opportunity to remind the US that "you must be very, very patient and very, very firm if you want to negotiate with the Communists." Peking could be persuaded in time, perhaps after a year or two, he said. But "in the beginning they will dismiss" the idea of a seat for Taipei in the General Assembly. The Chiang regime would also resist, and

would threaten to cut off relations with the US and Japan over the recognition of Peking "even though everyone knows they cannot afford to make good on this threat."

While the Government here professed surprise on learning of Mr Nixon's trip, Mr Lei declared: "It has long been apparent that if we want to carry on international business, especially in this part of the world, it is necessary to have contact with them." He added, however, that Peking was not yet "reliable enough to be trusted in a deal giving Formosa autonomous status under mainland control as proposed by some Western experts."

Even though Formosa has an unrepresentative Government and the Formosans are "sad and dissatisfied," Mr Lei declared, "life here is still better and freer than on the mainland."

One of the hardy perennials in analyses of the Formosa prob-

lem over the years has been the warning that KMT leaders would rather make a deal with their Communist fellow mainlanders than see a Formosan dominated regime. This is still possible, but the Formosans also seem to be capable of making their own accommodation with the mainland. While they are wary of direct incorporation into the Communist structure, some Formosans appear to be asking cautiously whether an autonomy bargain with the mainlanders in Peking could be better than the present domination by KMT mainlanders in Taipei.

Their hope is that an increasingly moderate Peking will accept a tributary relationship in which Formosa retains separate sovereignty but formally acknowledges Chinese overlordship in international affairs. This is viewed as consistent with proposals for separate UN representation after the broad pattern suggested by the cases of Byelorussia and the Ukraine. — Washington Post.

Somoza seeks a new term for the family firm

By JO BERESFORD



President Somoza

President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua appears to have turned down a request made this week by the town of San Ramon to become king of the Central American republic. Instead he has announced that he would wait to become a member of the triumvirate which takes over from him in May. But in doing so he has made it quite clear that he does not intend to relax the tight control that his family has held over the country since 1932.

The last of the old-style dictators in the Caribbean, President Somoza has been beset this year with considerable constitutional problems. His term of office should have ended last month. But lack of a Somoza old enough to carry on the family tradition appears to have prevented elections from taking place. The constitution forbids a consecutive second term and requires the President to be at least 30 years old. President Somoza's eldest son is 22 while his eldest nephew is 28.

The family has had no difficulty in observing the present constitution since it was introduced in 1950. But the designation of the first President Somoza in 1932 and the subsequent natural death of his eldest son has left the present President as the only Somoza constitutionally able to rule.

The triumvirate has been produced as a solution to this dilemma. Somoza's party, the Liberals, has made a pact with the only opposition party in Congress, the Conservatives, to share power for 20 months from May 1972. As the Liberals have a majority in Congress, they are expected to provide two members of the three-man junta which will run the country. Legislative power is to be shared until general elections are held in 1974. Here again the Liberals will have the upper hand.

Somoza sees the pact as "the debut of a democratic revolution in Nicaragua." In fact he has been so carried away by the arrangements as to declare that Nicaragua is now the first Socialist country after Mexico although he was careful to add that the kind of nationalisation programme introduced by Bolivia, Chile, and Peru would not be attempted in Nicaragua.

Delaying tactics But whatever he may claim, the pact is a delaying tactic to enable him to pick up the threads of the constitution again in 1974 and stand for the presidency again. Theoretically he should then have no problem in keeping the Somoza tradition alive.

Opposition to his regime, however, is on the increase. The guerrillas continue to be active in the north of the country, in spite of Somoza's constant claim that they have been wiped out. Discontent among professional people and students has led to the formation of a popular front, the National Civil Alliance, consisting of Social Democrats and other Left-wing groups. This front could be a serious threat to Somoza if free elections are held in 1974.

Relief plane crashes

From INDER MALHOTRA

Bombay, July 29 A Russian Antonov transport plane engaged in the airlift of East Pakistan refugees in India crashed today while landing at Dum Dum Airport, Calcutta. All seven people on board, including three Russian crew members, escaped alive.

The aircraft, one of two loaned by Russia to disperse refugees from border areas, was returning after taking 100 refugees to Miana camp in Central India.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr K. C. Pant, assured the Indian Parliament that the army had been asked to stand by on India's eastern border with Pakistan because of continued Pakistani shelling in Assam and Tripura border areas. Eleven Indians have been killed during the past 36 hours.

He told the House that the border security force was adequate for guarding the frontier and the army will be deployed only if necessary.

Members belonging to Right-wing and Communist parties joined in declaring that India should not merely protest against Pakistani provocation but should take "retaliatory action and teach Pakistan a lesson."

Saigon election nominations in

From ARTHUR J. DOMMEN: Saigon, July 29

President Nguyen Van Thieu and General Duong Van Minh, the two main contenders in the coming presidential election, handed in their nomination papers here today, the first day of the week-long filing period. The election is due to take place on October 3.

First to file when the Supreme Court opened for business this morning was President Thieu, who listed former Prime Minister Tran Van Huong as his vice-presidential running mate. General Afinh, whose representative followed shortly afterwards, named National Assembly deputy Ho Van Minh as his partner. The certificates of both candidates contained the signatures of at least 40 members of both Houses of the Legislature or 100 members of provincial and municipal councils, as required by law.

The signature requirement is believed delaying filing by the third announced candidate, Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky.

Ky said on Tuesday that in the past month his supporters "met with difficulties." He claims that he has the necessary number of signatures of provincial and municipal councillors to file his candidacy, but that he is experiencing trouble having the signatures certified by provincial chiefs and mayors, who are appointed by President Thieu.

Hinting at foul play by President Thieu, Ky told a gathering of his supporters at a dinner at the officers' club at Tan Son Nhut that "So far I have seen no evidence of the democratic game being played."

President Thieu used the occasion of a visit to a hospital in the Saigon suburb of Cholon on Wednesday to reaffirm his commitment to a military victory in South Vietnam. This is the point on which the most clear-cut difference has emerged between him and General Minh.

Minh has said such a victory is out of the question and has indicated that if he wins he will negotiate a peace settlement that will move the struggle against the Communists from the battlefield of Indochina to the political arena. — Los Angeles Times.

Heart patient improves The condition of South Africa's double-transplant patient, Adrian Herbert, improved yesterday after a night in which doctors feared for his life.

"His heart and lung function is now satisfactory," a bulletin from Groote Schuur Hospital reported.

From August 1st

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HOME NEWS

Power board seeks ban on explosives dump near dam

The Central Electricity Generating Board asked a High Court judge yesterday to order Imperial Chemical Industries to remove explosives from a Merioneth quarry immediately. The presence of the explosives, the remains of 5,000 tons, has put the power station—the board's most up-to-date and efficient—out of action. The board's counsel, Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, said ICI had been complacent, and sensitive only to its own commercial interests in dealing with the explosives in an underground store at the Croesor quarry.

The board's £13½ millions Ffestiniog power station, dams, and reservoirs are near the quarry, he told Mr Justice Plowman. The whole project—Britain's first pump storage scheme—was opened by the Queen in 1963 and was one of the largest installations of its kind in the world. It has been closed since the beginning of June.

Its loss, said Mr Sparrow, was costing the board between £4,000 and £7,000 a day which in due course might have to be paid by ICI. More important was the dislocation of the board's operating system which was irreparable without the return of the station to active operation.

By our Art Soles Correspondent

EPHEMERA are here to stay. Printed materials, photographs, postcards, cigarette cards, children's books, valentines, advertising material, and all the other things that we throw away sooner or later are being collected, provided they are old. The London auctioneers Phillips held a sale of ephemera yesterday which made a tidy £4,600.

The lots were like the contents of an attic, but without the proverbial Old Master. A folder of photographs and papers about human freaks made £35; an album of Victorian courtesans £38; about 2,000 cinema stills £20; about 230 "nudes and demi-nudes" and dressing room scenes £55.

But some of the prices were fancier: about 1,339 postcards of railways made no less than £180.

Some of the material came from the collection of a man who must have been the greatest hoarder of his time. He was Mr Ernest J. Tyrrell, who died last year aged 68. He was a bachelor and London purchasing manager for the Suez Canal Company. He amassed four tons of printed ephemera at his home in Walthamstow.

that it was monstrous to seek an injunction against the company. ICI had stored more than 5,000 tons of explosive underground. "If these were to go up the upper dam would be virtually destroyed." The valley would be flooded with loss of life and calamity on a national scale. The board's opinion had been supported by the Home Office's chief inspector of explosives. The store was without question the largest private magazine in the country and it was within 1,000 yards of the board's reservoir. Mr Sparrow said the conditions under which the explosives were stored would have increased the possibility of explosion.

The origin of the store arose from a "curious deal" between ICI and the Government after the war. ICI agreed to take surplus explosives if the Government granted a licence for storage.

When the reservoirs were built the ICI licence to store explosives became void because the quantity of explosives became incompatible with the safety of the reservoirs. It had been void for at least 10 years, and ICI must have known it, said counsel.

Mr Sparrow said ICI had allowed many valuable months to be frittered away while the board and the Home Office had been pressing for some action.

Finally, the board asked ICI to give an assurance to remove the explosives as quickly as possible. This was not given.

He contended that the store had at all material times been illegal. Regardless of the protracted efforts of the board and the Home Office, ICI's attitude still seemed to be that it had acted with perfect rectitude and

the hearing continues today.

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Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, the deputy ruler of Qatar, watching the passing out parade at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, yesterday. His son, Prince Hamad, was one of 522 officers on the Sovereign's Parade, taken yesterday by King Olaf V of Norway. The Sheikh leaves Britain today after talks with Ministers in London.

Lake District's camping headache

By our own Reporter

Drive up the Kirkstone road from Windermere any night at this time of the year and the lay-bys will be littered with overnight tents and caravans. If there is any space left in the Limestone Park camping site at Troutbeck, the warden will let the police know and the roadside campers will be cleared. But once the site is full, as it often is, the tents can only gather on the verges again.

There are more people on holiday in the Lake District now than at any other time of the year, and the camping problem is simmering to the boil again. At Whitsun, it boiled over in the Troutbeck valley; there were tents all over the fields, even people sleeping in the church, and nowhere to send them to. Any fine weekend between now and August Bank Holiday, the same could happen again.

Limefit Park, one of the biggest and best-organised camping grounds in the area, is simply too successful. With a licence to accommodate only 200 units a night, it is bursting at the seams at this time of the year. The Lake District Planning Board has so far declined to let the organisers extend their facilities, as the site already occupies a prominent slice of the valley. But the campers keep coming.

They come because the site is well-known and sign-posted and offers a comprehensive range of holiday facilities. For those on the foot who arrive to find it full, the nearest alternative is too far away so they camp wherever they can, and for those with cars and caravans, the choices are probably full anyway.

The "problem" of indiscriminate camping, and it is by no means confined to Troutbeck, is raising fundamental questions about the future of

the national park, and for that reason alone no early solution seems likely. Besides preserving the natural beauty of the area, the Lake District Planning Board is also charged with encouraging the provision of facilities for its enjoyment. It has been conspicuously successful at the first aim, but even the park warden, Mr John Wyatt, feels that more could be done towards the second.

The board's access and accommodation committee is looking, and has been looking

for years, for more camping sites in the central area, but agreement is hard to come by. Either the amenity bodies object, because the proposed orange and blue sea of tents would be visible from the fell-side, or else the landowners, reluctant to reap the financial benefits, refuse to have anything to do with campers at all.

The search continues, but attention has switched to the possibility of siphoning off the demand into sites on the periphery of the park, designed to satisfy family campers and caravanners not using the mountains anyway.

It is a short step from this policy to conclude, as many on the planning board are already doing, that the central Lake District area is approaching capacity. John Wyatt believes that for tents and touring caravans this is simply not true.

As one who is confronted every day of the week with harassed campers looking for a site, he feels that in the absence of physical controls over the numbers entering the district campers will keep coming to the central area whatever the board says. If they are not catered for, they will go on using the verges and lay-bys, with nothing more than a widening gap in the farmer's wall as a favatory.

AA wins damages

Beaverbrook Newspapers agreed in the High Court yesterday to pay damages to the Automobile Association over a report in the "Sunday Express" in June, 1968, which the AA considered was an accusation of incompetence.

Mr Peter Bowsher, for the AA, said that the article claimed that while Lord Brentford, the chairman, was telling the association's annual meeting he was cautiously optimistic about the financial position,

most senior AA executives had received a very different report. This showed, the newspaper said, that a financial surplus would become a deficit of more than £2 millions by 1973.

The AA understood the article as an accusation of insincerity and incompetence. There was, however, no question of any mismanagement or incompetence.

The newspaper will apologise, pay a sum to meet the gravity of the libel, and indemnify the AA in respect of costs.

Appeal over arcade lost

A legal fight to keep the "undesirable social effects" of amusement arcades out of Norwich was lost by the City Corporation in the House of Lords yesterday. Three Law Lords refused the corporation leave to appeal against a 2-1 majority ruling of the Court of Appeal.

This was that the Recorder of Norwich Quarter Sessions was entitled to reverse a decision of the corporation's licensing committee refusing a permit for an arcade. Lord Wilberforce, Lord Simon, and Lord Cross, sitting as the House of Lords Appeal committee, ordered the corporation to pay the costs of the application.

Earlier Mr N. C. Tapp, QC, for the corporation, said that his clients had decided as a matter of policy that they would not license an amusement arcade in Norwich. They felt that such arcades would be likely to have undesirable social effects on young people.

Decision upheld

In March 1969, Sagnata Investments Ltd was refused a permit but the Recorder reversed the decision which was upheld by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal.

Mr L. K. E. Boreham, QC for the company, said that all the corporation's points were destroyed by the provisions of the 1968 Gaming Act which was now in force. "Whether one likes amusement arcades or not is a matter of personal feeling but they are allowed by law," he said.

Navigation aid for ships

A newly-developed navigation aid called REMCALC might have prevented such shipping disasters as the grounding of the Torrey Canyon in 1967, and the collisions of tankers in the Channel, its makers claimed in London yesterday.

Captain S. S. Stevenson said: "It is tailor-made for individual vessels and is developed in accordance with the vessel's own turning characteristics." His company, S.S. Stevenson and Partners, has installed systems in vessels of up to 250,000 tons.

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GENOCIDE IN EAST BENGAL

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c) I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING: I'LL BE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE THIS SUNDAY TO GIVE MY MORAL SUPPORT TO THE THOUSANDS OF BENGALIS RESIDENT IN THIS COUNTRY WHOSE FRIENDS AND RELATIONS ARE BEING TERRORISED AND SLAUGHTERED BY THE PAKISTANI MILITARY REGIME ☐

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RALLY: TRAFALGAR SQUARE: SUNDAY AUGUST 1st, 2.00 p.m.

"STOP GENOCIDE: RECOGNISE BANGLA DESH"

SPEAKERS: JUSTICE CHOWDHURY, JOHN STONEHOUSE M.P., REG PRENTICE M.P., TOM WILLIAMS Q.C., M.P., BOB EDWARDS M.P., DAVID KOSOFF, LORD BROCKWAY, LADY GIFFORD, REV. KENYON WRIGHT, REV. ROGER CROSTHWAITE, MRS. LULU BANU, SIMON HEBDITCH, NIRMAL SINGH, and PAUL CONNETT.

MUSIC: MANESH CHANDRA on sitar, MADHUKAR KOTHARA on tabla, and a BENGALI CHORUS.

AFTER THE RALLY A MARCH WILL GO VIA 10 DOWNING STREET (where a message will be given to Mr. Heath) TO HYDE PARK CORNER.

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BRADFORD	0274: 26078		652: 5170
	24355	LUTON	0582: 26998
CAMBRIDGE	0223: 55845	MANCHESTER	061: 273: 6794
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ARLEPHI (196 7611). Evns. 7.30

The Musical Comedy

SHOW BOAT

With the Inmates of KERN & HAMMERSTEIN

ALOWYCH

RSC's 1971/72 London Season

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

Tenth, Mon. Tues. 7.30, tomorrow

Pinner's new play OLD TIMES (Wed.

7.30 & 8.15, Thurs. 7.30, Fri.

7.30 & 8.15, Sat. 7.30, Sun. 7.30

12 m.e. 10.15

AMERSADRE (01-226 1171). Evns. 8

Sat. 5 and 8.15, Sun. 2.30

ACACIA CHRISTIE'S

THE MOUSETRAP

NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY

FORGET-ME-NOT-LANE

by PETER NICHOLS

AMSCROFT, CROYDON, 688 9591

Lunch, 1.15, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

ERIC, 5.15, 7.30, 9.15, 11.15

Their Record Breakers Comedy

RSC's 1971/72 London Season

with JUDY WILSON

CAMBRIDGE (186 9036). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

INGRID BERGMAN

JOSS ACKLAND

and KENNETH WILLIAMS in

CAPTAIN BRASSBOUNCE

CAMBRIDGE (186 9036). Thurs. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

Fair Play for the Workers

HAMLET

CRIMERY (930 0578). Evns. 8.15, Sat.

8.0, Sun. 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

Singer, Richard, Coleman in

SINGING IN THE RAIN

There's a Girl in the Crowd

LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY

NIT OF ALL TIME

CRITERION (930 3216). Fully ad-

conditioned. Evns. 8.15, Sat. 8.30

Sun. 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

ALAN BATES in BUTTER

BRILLIANT PLAY, Harold Pinter

DELIGHTS OF THE YEAR, E. 8.15

ORURY LAKE (186 9108). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

A SCOTTISH MUSICAL

THE GREAT WALTZ

OR THE LIFE OF A SCOTCHMAN

"MUGGLES ENJOYABLE" - S. TOS.

OUCHESS (186 9241). Evns. 8.0

Fri. 8.15, Sat. 8.30

"It's the best of the best"

DIRTIEST SHOW IN TOWN

"NAKES ON! CALCUTTA! SEEN

LINES IN THE STREET"

FLENNER BOTH, "N.Y.T."

RUKE OF YORK'S (186 9122)

Evns. 8.15, Sat. 8.30, Sun. 2.30

WILFRED WHITE, FRANCES

WENSLY PITNEY in W. O. Home's

THE JOCKEY CLUB STAKES

"A comedy of the best"

FORTUNE (186 9238). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

CRAIG, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

PAUL, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

HILARIOUS, "A Comedy of the best"

DON'T START WITHOUT ME

CLORE (186 9241). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

ALAN BATES in BUTTER

BRILLIANT PLAY, Harold Pinter

DELIGHTS OF THE YEAR, E. 8.15

NAYMARKET (186 9241). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

MICHAEL, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

COODIFFE, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

THE CHALK GARDEN

"ONE OF THE BEST PLAYS IN

LONDON" - Observer

THEATRES

MAYMARKET 330 9832. Aug. 4, 7.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

A Voyage Round My Father

by JOHN MORTIMER

NER MASTERY (1930 6605). Evns. 8.0

Sat. 5.30, Sun. 2.30

BARRY MARTIN in

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

also starring Sheila Murray, 5th Year

12 m.e. 10.15

KING'S HEAD, LONDON 01-226 1016

Presents in association with The Sph

Theatre, Group's ENTERTAINING NO

LUNCH, 1.15, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

Prom. Evns. 8.30 (10 Monday)

Dinner optional 7.50

LYRIC (437 5685). Evns. 8.0, Sat. 8.30

Sun. 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.30

MAY (186 9241). Evns. 8.0

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Nation 'needs genetic list to cut risks'

By JOHN WINDSOR

A nationwide computerised genetic register would be set up because inherited disease is displacing environmental disease, Professor Alan Emery of the University of Edinburgh department of genetics said yesterday at the British Medical Association's annual scientific meeting in Leicester.

He had a great many people "at risk" having a child with a serious genetic disorder and are unaware of it. A six-year study of child deaths in Newcastle upon Tyne hospitals had shown that 42 per cent involved genetic factors. It was an increasingly common problem.

A family's genetic "pedigree" could be kept up to date by computer and parents known to be likely to have handicapped children could be advised to use abortion, sterilisation, or contraception. Inherited defects could be more easily diagnosed at the foetal stage and "selective abortion" could be advised.

Professor Emery said he was developing a computerised genetic register in Edinburgh. Families were "followed up" and told whether they risk having children with genetic defects such as mongolism, spina bifida, cleft palate, or a severe type of muscular dystrophy. A password system safeguarded confidentiality, limiting the information available to field workers: by comparison, he said, the hospitals' own files were less secure.

"I would dearly like to screen the whole population," he said, "but for some disorders we have no method of screening." Of 559 families referred to his clinic in five years, 758 people had been judged to have more than a one in 10 chance of bearing a child with a serious genetic disorder or a daughter capable of carrying one, although less than 20 per cent had been referred to the clinic specifically for genetic counselling.

Dr Cedric Carter, director of the Medical Research Council's clinical genetics unit, said there was a danger that inherited disease would increase because those with genetic disorders were being successfully treated and growing up to have children. "Genetic counselling is the answer to this. We hope in time to cut down the birth frequency of genetic disorders."

Most British university medical schools and post-graduate institutes already had specialist genetic clinics, and Dr Carter, who is a consultant geneticist at the Hospital for Sick Children, London, added that parents given information on genetic risks took "sensible and responsible decisions" on whether to have further children. In a survey at his own clinic, no parent told there was a high risk of severe handicap had planned further children.

He gave among examples of genetic counselling a family in a Sussex village, whose child was born with a rare form of dystrophy. The genetic type was — both parents must have been carriers to have produced a diseased child. Detective work by the local doctor revealed a blood link between the parents: the husband's grandfather had been the wife's half brother.

French research had speculated that if Toulouse Lautrec had been genetically counselled, he might have been told that he had a rare recessive disorder — pictures invariably showed him wearing a hard hat, thought to protect a large brittle forehead, and a beard to hide an excessively small chin. Queen Victoria was a carrier of haemophilia, which prevented blood from clotting.

Dr Carter added: "When there is a high risk of a serious condition it will become increasingly possible to test the foetus for the abnormality early in the pregnancy and offer the parents a termination if it is shown to be affected." It should be possible to prevent more diseases at the foetus stage if the foetus could be adequately detected and protected. This would take time.

Professor Emery outlined the risks of some handicaps being inherited. Cleft palate was counted as a moderate risk — one in 50. Spina bifida was a one in 12 risk if only one child had already been affected, if two children had been affected it was a one in 10 risk.

In some instances, parents could be told that there was little or no danger of a genetic defect being passed on. They could also be told, in cases where both carried a recessive disease, that it was 100 per cent that the child would be affected.

To follow up families at risk was a "massive task," Professor Emery said, so a computer was necessary. Those at risk might be, for example, five year old girls, who were not yet ready to be advised. Families might move from Edinburgh to Cornwall, but it was essential to keep track of them and ensure that information about the genetic family tree was not lost.

Men should be compelled by law to pay for the girl friends' abortions. Dr Herbert Richardson, a consultant anaesthetist, said yesterday. Dr Richardson, of Peterborough District Hospital, writing in the "British Medical Journal," said: "As a member of the operating team which takes part in many abortions, I feel more and more concerned and saddened at the plight of some of these girls and less and less for the fathers who, at the moment, suffer not one bit for their indiscretions."

Pregnant unmarried girls suffer much emotional and psychological upset while the boy friend has gone and invariably wants nothing more to do with the girl or her baby and often seeks fresh pastures."

He added: "Surely the time has come to make him become much more involved in the consequences of his voluntary actions. Is it beyond the power of our legislators and all others who are deeply concerned with the Abortion Law to find a way to make the man pay for the entire cost of the abortion, and the money be paid by him to the State?"

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The broadcasts will give only the patient's case number, his or her age, and his or her nationality. Physical descriptions will not be included.

A similar service in London would face special problems, the main one — according to Mr John Hunt, programme editor of Radio London — the sheer number of appeals which would be necessary. There were many foreign seamen in the capital as well as women who had as many as 10 or 12 contacts a day. "You would require a VD Half Hour."

Patients are not obliged to give their true names and a law introduced during the last war, making it obligatory for a person who has infected two other people to have treatment, is no longer

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Dennis Barker on a broadcasting initiative Radio to help trace VD cases

RADIO BIRMINGHAM last night launched a scheme for tracing VD patients who have failed to report back to local clinics for treatment. Case numbers and brief descriptions of such patients were broadcast, with warnings that prompt treatment was vital.

We decided to start this service after being approached by the clinic of the General Hospital," said the Radio Birmingham manager, Mr Jack Johnston. It is a separate attempt by the hospital to get these people in for treatment. I regard it as part of the public service duties of the station.

Mr Johnston said that any listeners who protested that the broadcasts were offensive

would be told that VD was "an increasing factor in the life of this country," and that the station regarded it as a duty to help the health authorities.

"I will certainly not come off," Mr Johnston said. "When I was asked to do it I had no hesitation."

Last night's broadcast appeals concerned a girl in her late teens and two men

aged 23. All gave fictitious names when they went to the clinic for their tests and none have been back since. All have early syphilis.

The clinic said that it was "commonplace" for young people to come in for tests and then disappear without trace, although the tests were positive. "We have spent a lot of time trying to trace these people."

"The girl with syphilis is a particularly serious case. If she doesn't come back for treatment nothing might happen for 10 years, apart from the fact she may infect other people. Then she may develop serious diseases of the nervous system."

The clinic deals with about 3,000 cases of gonorrhoea a year, compared with 100 cases of the far more serious

syphilis. Between 30 and 35 per cent of the cases fail to come back for examination, although some of these have had some treatment before they vanish.

Patients are not obliged to give their true names and a law introduced during the last war, making it obligatory for a person who has infected two other people to have treatment, is no longer

Warning over internment

By SIMON HOGGART

A warning that internment of IRA suspects would lead to violence on a scale that has not been seen in the present troubles," was given by a Northern Ireland MP yesterday. Mr Paddy Devlin, a member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party group, which has withdrawn from the Stormont Parliament, said: "A move like this would rapidly encourage support for the provisional IRA, which has been losing ground lately. Whereas only about 5 per cent of the people in the riot areas have been actively engaged in violence themselves, many more would immediately join in if internment were introduced."

"It is virtually certain that internment would be used only against Catholic IRA suspects, yet we know that many Protestants are heavily armed, and to some extent, organised. The violence would be of a quite different order, including mass shootings and bombings which were designed specifically to kill, with reprisals from each side. People would immediately lose any faith they had in the British Constitution if the internment were introduced."

Withdraw threat

Yesterday four Ulster Unionist MPs in Westminster said they would withdraw their support from the Government unless tougher measures against the terrorists were introduced. But it is known that the highest army officers do not believe that internment of suspected terrorists would be any positive use at all unless it was carried out at exactly the same time as internment in the Irish Republic. The IRA gets most of its guns and gellignite by way of the Republic, and is believed to be recruiting in the South.

Unless the internment operations in the North were comprehensive to an almost impossible degree, or unless internment was introduced in the South, great numbers of terrorists would be able to escape over the border. The dawn raids on the homes of official IRA men in Dublin, on Tuesday morning, has led to a belief that the Dublin Government might be prepared to cooperate to some degree with British and Ulster security forces.

In an interview in a Belfast newspaper yesterday, General Harry Tuzo, GOC Northern Ireland, called internment a "distasteful" weapon, but one that had great value in exactly the right political and military circumstances. "It could," he said, "have a very important effect if employed at exactly the right

moment in exactly the right framework.

"It must be obvious to the community that one cannot go on absorbing the shocks that are administered by the IRA without taking some sort of action of more possibly decisive kind, and internment might well be such an action, but the exact moment to apply that is a matter of very nice judgment."

General Tuzo said that if there were other ways of defeating the IRA and disrupting its activities, they should be adopted.

General Tuzo also said that the Apprentice Boys of Londonderry would "enhance their status throughout the world" if they called off their annual August 12 march this year. The march is the next ringed date in the Ulster calendar of possible violence, and the continuing small-scale rioting in Derry, which has continued now for four nights, has led to considerable fears. Violence has followed the past two August 12 parades in the city.

Finally, sounding an optimistic note, General Tuzo said it was his "military belief" that the present bad phase in the province would be over very shortly.

The Army's searching-out operation against the terrorists now appears to be gathering speed. Early yesterday morning, more than 700 troops, with police, took part in an operation that included the raiding of many homes in the west of the province. Several men were being questioned by police after the raids, which were designed mainly to gain information rather than to find arms.

One particularly nasty bomb was discovered by a garage owner on the Grosvenor Road in Belfast yesterday morning. It was a cardboard box containing 11lb. of gellignite and had a burnout fuse sticking out from it.

If you've a nose for trouble...

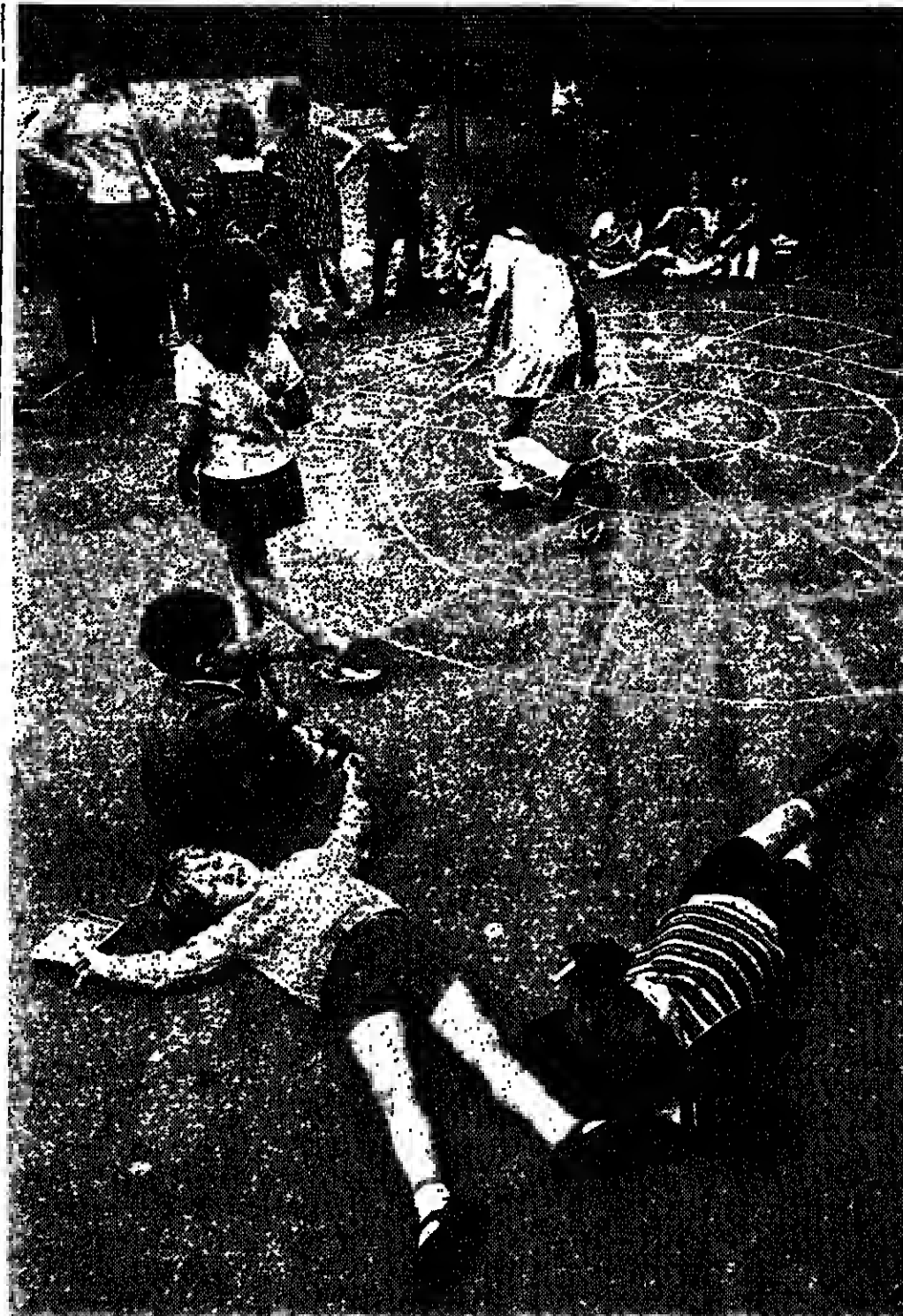
By JOHN ARDILL

Regional Affairs Correspondent

The Government is setting up a committee on smells. The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Peter Walker, has asked local authorities and other suitably qualified bodies to nominate representatives — presumably they must be keen of nose and ingenious of mind — to serve on a working party. The terms of reference: "To examine the problem of unpleasant odours emitted by offensive and similar uses, and to make recommendations about the best practicable means of their minimisation and suppression."

So far there seems to be little clamour to join the sniffing-line. The Urban District Councils Association decided to leave the choice of a representative to its secretary after the minutes enigmatically record, "certain enquiries had been made." A member of the staff explained yesterday that it was not nasal qualifications they were inquiring about but geographical ones; they wanted someone with experience of living with the problem.

The Association of Public Health Inspectors is also looking for someone in the field to put up for membership. The need to examine the problem of smells from food processing, particularly where animal wastes were concerned, had been obvious for some time, its secretary, Mr R. Johnson, said.



Holidays at school: children playing in the yard at the De Beauvoir Infant School, Hackney, London, which is being used as an adventure playground until September

Covent Garden action group's identity queried

By our own Reporter

Old politics faced new politics yesterday at the Covent Garden redevelopment inquiry, and the old obviously found it difficult to understand the new.

The inquiry, nearing the end of its third week, is hearing witnesses for the Covent Garden Community, the neighbourhood group which sprang up in April in protest against the lack of community participation in the redevelopment plan, due to be implemented after the market finally moves to Nine Elms in 1973.

One witness yesterday was Mr Brian Anson, a former Greater London Council architect who became disillusioned with the council's commitment to public participation and who was later dismissed from the Covent Garden development team.

He is to take up a post at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, but at present works as an advocate planner with the community.

What was clearly perplexing the Department of Environment's Inspector, Mr C. Hilton, who is conducting the inquiry, was the nature of the community. He explained that it was normal in such inquiries for the inspectors to be provided with the constitution and relevant resolutions of groups appearing before it. Yet all that seemed to be known about the community was that "it is an amorphous body."

Mr Anson was ready to admit its amorphous nature. To him that is part of its virtue. To Mr John Taylor, counsel for the G.L.C., it was clearly part of its vice. He said he was investigating the card index of activists which had been supplied and would provide a report on the membership.

Mr Thayne Forbes, counsel for the community, promised to provide a constitution before the end of the inquiry.

'Give consumer more protection'

By our own Reporter

A "trading standards office" in each local government area to deal with complaints of dishonesty or misrepresentation is proposed today.

The Institute of Weights and Measures Administration says the offices would be responsible for enforcing the whole range of Acts and regulations about protection of consumers.

At present "three different departments and three different officers can be responsible for ensuring that the labelled particulars on food and other products comply with the separate requirements of the Weights and Measures Act, the Food and Drugs Act, or the Trade Descriptions Act."

Further confusion arises from the division of duties between county and district councils. Some complaints can readily be taken to the nearest district council office, others have to go to the county town, often many miles away.

Weights and measures inspectors, renamed trading standards officers, could also give legal and technical advice to manufacturers and traders and protect them from dishonest suppliers and illegal competition.

The institute argues: "Competition is the mainspring of the present Government's economic policies. But it must be fair competition, conducted according to legal and voluntary rules enforced sensibly, effectively and economically."

"The scope and structure of the uniform Trading Standards Service needed for a competitive trading economy will emerge from an examination of the defects in the existing local administration."

The institute's proposals have been sent to Government departments, trade associations, and consumers' associations. Ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry are expected to discuss the proposals with the institute shortly.

Tory MP on cash charges

Mr Michael Grylls, aged 37, Conservative MP for Chertsey, Surrey, is to face summonses at Camberwell, London, on September 29 alleging that he and his company, the Costa Brava Wine Company, caused large sums of money to be sent abroad in contravention of the Exchange Control Act of 1947.

The Director of Public Prosecutions decided on prosecution after a report was prepared by Treasury investigators.

The summonses are against Mr Grylls and the company. They were served on him by a Scotland Yard officer under the Exchange Control Act, large sums of sterling may not be sent abroad without previously being declared and assented to by the Treasury.

He was adopted as prospective candidate for Chertsey in 1969, and in the last General Election won the seat with a majority of 11,582.

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Have you tried the double-barrelled scotch?

The first barrel: imagine the scotch back into the wood to let the male single, marry and mature together for at least another year and a half. Growing in subtlety and character until a flavour emerges that is undoubtedly greater than the sum of the parts.

The second barrel: they put the scotch back into the wood to let the male single, marry and mature together for at least another year and a half. Growing in subtlety and character until a flavour emerges that is undoubtedly greater than the sum of the parts.

Double-barrelled, to mature the male.

Cuty Sark

TELEVISION

Peter Fiddick

Bankrupt

review

ADELPHI THEATRE

Caryl Brahms

Showboat

WHAT DOES THE playgoer look for from a musical? Whatever it may be, it is all to be found and in plentiful supply at the Adelphi.

First, perhaps, since it is a musical the playgoer will long to be launched on a river of broadly-stated sound—in this case the Mississippi at the turn of the century, for the musical is Jerome Kern's *Showboat*, with the orchestration re-orchestrated and updated. And, it is the best-sung show outside our two opera houses.

Next, the playgoer will want sets appropriate to the mood and scale of the piece. Here there is an enchantment of scenes (Pin Goodchild), each set as imaginative and well achieved as the last. Lights flicker and rotate in a way that would make a Zeffirelli take note. The showboat Cotton Blossom slides on as silent as a barge drift on a lake on a calm day but to more evident purpose.

Then, and vastly important, a superb singer and an important dancer to astonish and delight us.

Cleo Laine (Julie), at her most accomplished and inventive, is a jazz singer uniquely distinguished in this country, with a wide vocal range which she uses with great skill with high frontal notes, booted at will. Here, musically and of necessity at her second best, she is still the finest coloured singer in sight, and for *Showboat* has found a more sustained style which stopped the show at the last public preview with her second-act song "Bill": having first stopped the show in Act 1 with her up-tempo "Can't Help Loving That Man," into which she had introduced that silver filigree of sound that is her personal signature.

The dancer, Miguel Godreau, formerly dancer-choreographer with the Alvin Ailey Company, brings a classic yet elastic elegance to his technical mastery and exciting showmanship.

And so to "Ol' Man River" himself (Thomas Carey), lately heard at the Royal Opera House in the Knot Garden. This is, though he could do worse than borrow the odd creak note from Miss Laine, made instant friends with the audience.

Lorna Dallas (Magnolia), making her London debut with "Only Make Believe" and "Why Do I Love You," sung with a small soprano charm inherited from singing Mozart and Strauss in America.

The production (Wendy Toye and choreographer Frederic Franklin) is a triumph of manner over matter. She keeps her spirited company rollin' along in this early protest play on the subject of the colour bar in the Deep South. Yes, there's this story, "ordained" by Bertolt Brecht, but not detain us unduly, since the musical, however animated and up-dated, was basically a collection of splendidly hummable songs, strung on a modicum of plot and, in view of the dramatic content of most of them, mercifully so.

A SIMPLE PEASANT test of the critical urge is when you find yourself sitting hitting the cushion and yelling: "Ask him how it happened, you fool, ask him..." I found myself doing that a lot recently, faced with various of the box's documentary offerings. There was that monster James Burke trilogy (no the trilogy James, the trilogy) about unemployment, the first of which was devoted to the lament of axed executives. To the extent that they are victims of the alleged economic policy of the Government they almost certainly helped elect, they have my sympathy to a man, but that is not good enough for a journalistic inquiry. Somewhere all those ex-£8,000 a year men should have been asked what they were actually worth—whether a realistic self assessment would not have told them that their perhaps ordinary abilities mostly merited more ordinary rewards. Maybe they were worth it but the fool—so to speak—over asked them, so we could not judge the depth of the self pity.

On Wednesday it was the turn of "Man Alive" to provoke more cushion bashing (well, its healthier than sticking pins in Desmond Wilcox dolls—though I bet the marketing lads at BBC Enterprises wish they had thought of that one). The subject was bankruptcy, another of those worthy socio-economic topics that will swell out the public service percentages in the annual report. It was the familiar "human interest" case history approach—to which, indeed, television is very suited. Three cases: the ex-Banana King of Birmingham, now back with his harrow after going broke for £50,000 of the bank's money; a young couple who ran a shop as a sideline and ended up losing health and home; and a smooth younger chancer who had gone once for £8,000 then for £4,000 but still lives in free speeding luxury while driving a mini-car.

Harold Williamson's report was scattered with vague problem areas like the bad advice the couple were said to have in declaring themselves bankrupt in the first place or airy statements about how it was all right if you were a limited company, or the charge that it was a law in effect against poor men. But in 50 minutes one of this was answered.

Even on the personal level it was incomplete. The interview with the banana man, for instance, seemed to have taken two days, but no one seems to have thought of asking him—or, failing that, asking someone else—just how far he got in trouble. Instead he was allowed a doubtful sounding crack at the fruit growers of the world ganging up on him personally and then constantly—and in the end boringly—repeated snarls at the vultures of the banks. This may be good populist entertainment, like a tabloid editorial, but it doesn't start to be a report about bankruptcy. Similarly, the young couple appeared, from their account, to have had a very rough time from the process of the law, but a journalist worth his salt would have marched over to the Official Receiver's Office and asked what they meant by, say, telling the show stand rotting for two years before selling it.

As for laughing boy—if what the programme was trying to imply was that the law can be evaded by having your friends "own" everything you need for the good life, it should have blank-blank said so. The difference between realism and fantasy is quite small, but it is about the width of the human brain.

Peter Fiddick's television review appeared in later editions yesterday.



picture by David L. Murray by PETER JOHNS

'I have to watch myself. Sometimes I point to the picture of Napoleon and say "self-portrait"'

Mr Conroy is now playing generalissimo with the army in Yugoslavia, making 'War and Peace' for the BBC, the most expensive programme they have ever made. Terry Coleman interviewed him before he went

THIS SPRING a BBC television producer was shopping round for an army for his version of "War and Peace". The Hungarian Army was six US dollars per man per day. But the locations in Yugoslavia were better, so he inquired the price there too. The colonel in charge of the army to foreign film companies gave him a price list, which was something like 133 dinars a day for a private, 150 for a sergeant, 200 for a lieutenant, and 500 for a colonel. At 36 dinars to the pound this was expensive. The producer said he could get the Hungarian Army for six dollars US, and left to be rapidly pursued by a cable saying the new Yugoslav price was also six dollars US.

So he took it. There were no conditions; only cash. Except that it is understood—there being revisionists around—that Tito may keep the army for himself in case of trouble, in which event he will let the BBC have the Territorials instead; same rates.

Now there used to come a time in the career of every successful MGM producer when he was in the market for hiring if not the Yugoslav then the Spanish Army; it was common form. But according to the BBC producer, whose name is David Conroy, it is the first time the BBC has needed an army. He also says that "War and Peace" will be the most expensive programme the BBC has ever done and will cost lots more than "The Forsyte Saga". Mr Conroy is now in Yugoslavia playing generalissimo, a high rank for a man of 34, but before he went off I saw him in his office at Shepherd's Bush. On the wall are pictures of his wife, and Napoleon. Like Napoleon he has a beautiful wife. Like Napoleon he has energy. He sometimes looks at the picture of Napoleon and thinks it's a portrait of himself.

Mr Conroy's ancestors came to England in 1911, and very properly, from Russia. He was born in Stepney, where his father is a tailor. At eight, having seen something red in the sky, the young Conroy wrote to the Astronomer Royal who replied that it was probably Mars. This became known at school, and he was ever afterwards

marked for a scientific career. From grammar school he went to London University, leaving a few months before he should have taken his finals in physics. He says he was afraid that if he had graduated he would have gone into physics and never got out. He wanted to do something different.

As it was, he spent some time out of work and then, having to find something, began to write for a technical journal—about physics. He tried for a job as a cameraman with ITV, but they said he was too short. The BBC turned him down four or five times. One day a man at ATV broke a leg and they gave his job to Conroy for three weeks, as assistant stage manager. Then he was out of work again, and then came his big chance. ABC were rehearsing a programme with an actor who was in the habit of going for lunch and drinking so much that he never returned, so they gave Conroy the job of going to lunch with him and seeing he did return. Then, at the beginning of BBC2, he went there as a trainee production assistant, and soon found himself with a year's contract and with some experience working on "Compact" and "Dr Who".

He worked on serials like "A Farewell to Arms", and in 1966 became the youngest and most inexperienced producer of classical serials. Since then he has done 30, including "Angel Pavement", "Nana", "The Way We Live Now", "Daniel Deronda", "Roads to Freedom". At one time he was doing five at once, casting, rehearsing, recording, and editing, and he was fed up.

So he went to the BBC and said, no doubt with energy, that he had given his all (the phrase is his) that the serial was now something better than it had been when he first took over, that there was no longer anything in it for him, so please could he concentrate on one big project now, and please could he do "War and Peace" in 20 episodes of 45 minutes each.

So now he is playing with 1,000 of the soldiers in Yugoslavia. But why did he want that many? Couldn't he

have done with a few, multiplied by the camera and imagination, as in "Clotel"? He says he needed 1,000 to get the steamroller effect of Napoleon's army, and moreover hopes to make them 250,000 with a bit of trickery. To be exact, with painted glass, also he says a device not previously used by the BBC, but known to producers employed by Cecil B. DeMille. You have your 1,000, and apparently paint the other 249,000 on glass which is interposed between the real soldiers and the camera. These painted figures, in the background, can be made to look real enough if you plant on the real ground behind the glass, little charges of explosives which go off and make it look as if the 249,000 are firing rifle volleys. He is even going to get the city of Moscow painted on glass.

The BBC generally makes a clear distinction between producer and director. The producer is the impresario, who puts the idea forward, gets the money to carry it out, and then manages the whole project, seeing the actors are there when they should be, and that their hotels and buses are booked. He is the general in command of the army. The director, on the other hand, is a sort of staff colonel. Managing things is not his business. His job is the artistic direction of the programme, seeing the actors do what he wants and say the right words in the right way. It is customary for a producer to hire a director and then leave him alone.

"I think perhaps," says Mr Conroy, "I'm one of the most interfering producers there is." The script he interferes with "most strongly". He also casts the most important parts. I said I bet people loved all that. Oh, he said, they did. They used to think it an intrusion, but now he thinks, with all due modesty, that they value his contribution. But of course he would consult the director. "I'd say, 'Look, I'd like Fred Bloggs to play that part,' and he [the director] would say, 'Great'."

But, says Conroy, he doesn't impose; he suggests. What he says is not an

instruction, but a subject for conversation. So the director does have the last word? "It just depends whether I allow the director to have the last word or not."

He also does not run his programmes by committee, thinking three minds quite enough—his, the scriptwriter's, and the director's. "Well, four," he says: "Tolstoy's."

Really he does have a lot of power? "Yes, and I have to watch myself. Sometimes I point to the picture of Napoleon [on the wall] and say 'Self-portrait.' I like to have complete control. I know what I want. I know how to go about getting it. I think it's important that there's a strong man in a team like this."

And the strong man is him? "Yes."

Now he knows, he admits, that he is dictatorial, for instance at home. He has a lovely, sweet wife who is very long suffering. Her name is Athene (after the conventional goddess). She is an actress and came to him for an interview, but she didn't get the part; she got him. Now they have a two-and-a-half-year-old baby.

At home, he knows the way he likes things to happen.

For instance? "They are just reconstructing the ground floor, and Athene has views, and he has strong views."

"And we come," he says, "to an agreement as to what we're going to do... You smile?"

Laughter.

"No, it really is the same as I work with a director, actually."

More laughter.

Mr Conroy is the archetype of the Work-As-A-Team-And-Do-It-My Way man. Thirty years ago he would have been in journalism, probably as news editor. The Yugoslav Army will accept orders without question, and President Tito may have a job getting them back if he wants them, even if there are revisionists around.

Jack Gold, man of many directions, returns to television with a documentary, 'Dowager in Hot Pants.' He talks to Oliver Pritchett and defends television against films



Jack Gold

THEY TALK of television directors "graduating" to films. Jack Gold says this is film industry propaganda. He began his career as a director with "Tonight", made some documentaries and plays for television, moved to feature films with "The Bofors Gun", and "The Reckoning", and now returns to television with "Dowager in Hot Pants", a documentary on Hollywood which Thames is transmitting on August 17.

Gold won't admit that there is all that much difference between television and films. "If a subject interests me, I want to do it," he says.

"I don't mind if it's on the TV screen or the cinema screen. Cinema may provide a few more frills because it has more money; more extras can be hired for the crowd scenes, you can have more scope with landscapes. People are just as easily moved emotionally and intellectually by something on the television screen as they are on the cinema screen. I went to the cinema the other day and the film was nearly drowned by the sound of rustling sweet papers."

What about colour? In spite of Mr Barber's super-duper hooter Budget now still he is sure that more television viewers will be seeing the programme in black and white, but this does not bother Gold. He still does not think in colour, especially in documentaries. "I'm a realist," he says. "Tonight" taught him that a film depended on the strength of its situation. He is against pretty pictures for their own sake on the screen—"concentration on composition can be boring."

With so many producers having hefts about budgets and the timidity of their

superiors, it is nice to meet such an emphatic defender of television. Gold is sure there have been more important visual experiences in television than in films in postwar Britain, and more in the past year, too.

His own contributions to visual experience include programmes on Paul Getty, Baroness Thyssen, and fox-hunting with Alan Whicker, two Malcolm Muggeridge shows, "Black Campus" and "Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure." He made "90 Days" about solitary confinement in South Africa, "Famine" about India, and "Dispute" about industrial relations.

He also made Jim Allen's "The Lump", and "Mad Jack" Tom Clarke's Wednesday Play about Siegfried Sassoon. "Dispute" his last documentary, was made four years ago. It was a two-part study of the delicate relationship of an employer, Mr Port, and the district Transport and General Workers' Union official, Mr Lapworth, in the Midlands and it told more about industrial relations than 100 Robert Carr speeches.

He made the Hollywood documentary to keep in touch: "you do section there a terrible risk of losing contact with people. It all becomes so incestuous. Then you have to rely on the writers and hope that they have contact with people."

Hollywood is hardly people, but Gold has found some good specimens from the cynic and fanatically aspiring starlet from Sioux City, Iowa, to the old silent comedy actress who only meets her friends at funerals these days.

Hollywood intrigued him, because, in a way, he is involved in it, too.

But he is still a champion of television. He likes the short gestation period. In television—especially if you have been trained on high-speed "Tonight"—an idea can be a finished film in three months; in films you are lucky if it takes as little as a year, which is a long time, he says, over which to spread your creative adrenalin.

There may be more sexual freedom in films, but there is also the box-office. At least, in television, the audience is given; you don't have to aim for a fixed return through the box-office and be subject to other people's guesses about what will bring the audiences in. Perhaps Jack Gold is still showing a few scars from "The Bofors Gun" and "The Reckoning" which did not really get the distribution many people thought they deserved.

"You couldn't do 'The Lump' in the cinema, and you couldn't do a play like 'Slattery's Mounted Foot' for films," he says. "What's Ken Russell done for the cinema that he couldn't do for television? 'The Devils' perhaps."

Jack Gold's next production is a Jim Allen play for the BBC's "Thirty Minute Theatre" which will be shown in the new autumn. It is a comedy called "Walt, King of the Dunces". And then it is back to the cinema to make a film for Columbia. It is called "Cry of Playera" and is about Will Shakespeare's last two days in Stratford before he goes to London. The author is William Gibson, who wrote "The Miracle Worker" and "Two for a See-Saw". Filming is due to start in the spring. "That is supposed to happen," Gold says. "If you said that in television it would happen."

in the AUGUST numbers

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DRIFTING THROUGH BAD VISIONS

TIM HARDIN has a quality that makes you afraid for him. His voice can be light and easy; but, more often, it's cloaked. Listening to him at Lincoln last weekend, with eyes shut, I could have believed that I was listening to a badly tuned radio in another room, as his voice faded, cracked, jumped and slurred, creating the equivalent of static. He began at Lincoln with "Reason to Believe"; and there is a live version of this song on Tim Hardin 3: Live in Concert (Verve VLP 8010), issued in 1968. He seems to refer to the song, rather than to sing it, "Knowing that you lie straight-faced, while I cry." Hardin shares John Lennon's new ability to create pain in a song, and he also has Van Morrison's insistence, in concert, that he feels

the words, as he sings, as he felt them the first time.

Before he went off stage, sweating like a boxer, Hardin mentioned his recent album Suite for Susan Moore and Damian (CBS 63571). It's a collection of songs to his lady and child, elegiac, as are all his most distinctive songs, and soaked with apology for and fear of his weakness in the face of new life and love. "A very obscure album," Tim said wryly. "It shouldn't be; it's his masterpiece. 'More than once in my life, I've fallen down,' he sings; and the careful and delicate music conveys his belief that he's lost the right to love.

Tim's new album, Bird on a Wire (CBS 64335) has suggestions of strength, but most of the time he drifts through bad visions, doubting that he

pop records reviewed by Geoffrey Cannon

can handle his life. He may be compared with Billie Holiday.

Tom Paxton also sang at Lincoln. Quite different from Hardin, he is equally exemplary; he has established himself now without serious rival as the leading balladeer. His new album How Come The Sun (Reprise K 44129) is as much a pleasure to hear as it is a pleasure to meet Paxton himself.

Paxton is often thought to be sentimental. I don't believe he is. Sentimentality implies a faked reaction: he sings about everyday situations with love and courtesy. He likes to share—whether with his wife, or his children, or with an audience—by singing. Unlike Hardin, Paxton is a citizen of his experiences.

But, as a first buy, I'd advise Paxton's recently issued double live album,

The Compleat Tom Paxton (Elektra EKD 2003). It recaptures his Lincoln concert, with some of his best songs, such as "Clarissa Jones," "Mr Blue," and "Cindy's Crying"—not to mention "Ramblin' Boy."

The stars at Lincoln, without question, were The Byrds. I'm astonished to find their new album, Byrdsmanix (CBS 64389), muffled, in total contrast to their style in concert, which is breath-takingly clear, however fast they play.

The album to recapture their Lincoln (and recent Albert Hall) triumph, is another live double album, Untitled (CBS 64231), especially for "Cheatnut Mare" and "So You Want To Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star." And, for an old Byrds album, in a style close to the way they play now, listen to Sweetheart of the Rodeo (CBS 63353).

WOMAN'S GUARDIAN

PARIS
AUTUMN
COLLECTIONS
1971



ALISON ADBURGHAM on
the Courreges and
Givenchy collections:

Quel
bore!

COURREGES HAS BECOME a terrible bore. Perhaps I should qualify that statement by saying that, to me he has become a terrible bore. Which is sad. It was, after all, only seven years ago that Courreges presented the most exciting, most stimulating modern collection, which made everything the other couture houses were doing seem old fashioned. And for a good many years after that he influenced the look and the line, the cut and the structure of fashion the whole world over. But now he seems stuck. Each season one hopes he will surprise, confound, and delight us once again; but he goes on repeating his familiar formula—repeating it even on the same model girls, jiggling out in the same way, to the same nerve-battering music.

A season or so ago he did soften his line a little. And there are, of course, small differences of detail if one is able to spot them as the girls jig on and off. But the differences are overshadowed by the similarities: the familiar double seaming that emphasises the structure of the clothes, the belts running through rounded tabs, the pocket flaps, the zip fasteners, the peaked caps, the thick-knit jump suits with roll collars underneath so many of the outfits, the use of vinyl and other shiny synthetics in combination with jerseys.

New: bottle green

This season there are thigh-high socks with striped tops, as we have seen elsewhere; and there are little vinyl bot pants over some of the knitted jump suits. There was the emergence of bottle green as a new Courreges colour. And there was a patchwork trouser suit of gingham and print with vinyl bands—new to Courreges, but patchwork and gingham has been around in the cheap ready-to-wear for a long time now.

Courreges was one of the first couturiers to see that haute couture must be supported by ready-to-wear. He introduced his high-priced "Couture Future" prêt-à-porter several years ago, and last year a less expensive "Hyperbole" collection. The Hyperbole clothes in this autumn 1971 presentation are good, mainly sports clothes for the sports girl who knows her way around. The Couture Future collection offers very little new. They say tomorrow never comes but the Couture Future always seems to be here and now and the same.

The couture collection proper had some very charming evening dresses in embroidered organza, but their line was much as Courreges has shown for evening dresses before. It would be ironic if Courreges were to become the Chanel of the 1970s—doing the same thing over and over again, doing it superbly well and believing in it ardently, but disregarding the general feel and flow and change of fashion. If so, of course, he could, like Chanel, be right on the ball again in another 20 or 30 years.

Permissive Givenchy

Talking of irony, how about this? It is Givenchy who has produced the most permissive collection of the week. Who would have expected that the great house of Givenchy, one of the greatest, haute couture at its highest, would be one of the very few houses to show shorts this week—and very short shorts at that. Givenchy also shows suit skirts with slits all round instead of pleats, and outfits with tiny little tunics barely covering the top of the thighs. There are dresses with wide V-neck plunges revealing no bras beneath, dresses with leg-revealing fringes, and dresses made of a kind of chenille netting. There was a tiny little sequined mini-dress, surely the shortest dress of all time: a sheer organza dress over brief black mallets. A black velvet evening suit plunged to the waist, with no bra. Fashion is so perverse, that all this seems out-moded now.

Of course, everything at Givenchy was superbly made, and as always there were some very beautiful furs and leather clothes. If one had not been so distracted by the distractions, one would have been able to note down much more that one appreciated. The House of Givenchy is one of the most financially successful houses in Paris, and there are now 42 Givenchy boutiques in different countries besides many in stores in America. In England, there is a Givenchy boutique at Harrods, and in Japan, the big Daimaru chain of stores have Givenchy boutiques.

Pictures by Chris Moore
Sketches by May Routh



COURREGES



LAROCHE

COURREGES (small picture): White gaberdine raincoat over wool suit worn with thigh-high socks and the new midcalf boots.

JEAN-LOUIS SCHERRER (large picture): trouser suit in printed wool crepe with zebra pattern, black on white; fox fur collar and cuffs. Hat by Jean Barthet.

COURREGES (large sketch): shell pink organza evening dress with black velvet flowers, zip front bound with vinyl; fake suede evening coat of the same pink, heavy zip-fastening, and bound with black vinyl.

GUY LAROCHE (small sketch): tweed tunic suit with tweed gaiters and above-the-knee skirt.

THE Consumers' Association, publisher of "Which?" has at last got its wind back after the shock of the death blow dealt to its colleague the Consumer Council earlier this year, when the Government withdrew its grant of £240,000. After six months' stock-taking, the Association has now decided to step up both its campaigning work on behalf of consumers and its efforts to represent consumer interests to Government and industry.

After 14 years, the kid gloves are finally off and "we are going to yell as loudly as we can," says Peter Goldman, the Association's Director. "Instead of just submitting evidence to committees and commissions and leaving it at that, we are going to use every device—parliamentary questions and the media generally—to get things done."

To this end the Association announced this week the setting up of a Consumer Campaign Committee to give further direction, coordination and pace to its efforts. The committee, which is to meet weekly under the chairmanship of Peter Goldman, includes Eirlys Roberts, Head of Research, John Hosker, head of information, and David Trench, legal officer. Rosemary McRobert, formerly press officer with the Consumer Council, and since February the Association's Chief Information Officer, has been appointed Consumer Representation Officer.

The strength of the new committee is some indication of the importance the Association places on its increased commitments in this field, but at the same time it is obvious that the Association is taking on the additional responsibility with some regret. It had hoped that the Council's function would have been absorbed into a rumoured new government department—a Commission for Competition or some such, on the lines of the American Federal Trade Commission—but with, as yet, no move being made in this direction, the Association has been left with little alternative but

Linda Christmas writes about the new role of the Consumers' Association

'Which?' with the gloves off

to increase its campaigning and representational work.

In no way, however, is the Association making a bid for the Council's role. Even though it will now be able to double the number of committees on which it is represented to around 30, it cannot attempt to match the Council's £2. Nor can it try to carry on the Council's work in educating and informing consumers.

Limitations

"We cannot produce nearly £1 million out of the air, therefore we cannot produce millions of free informative booklets, or promote consumer education in the schools and provide material for it. Nor can we continue the Teltag informative labelling scheme. With Teltag money is not the only reason. It is just not our cup of tea to negotiate with manufacturers. We need an Independent Institute of labelling for that. We can't be working hand in hand with manufacturers and then be fearlessly independent when it comes to comparative testing.

"But in so far as our money and manpower will allow, and we have taken on two former Council members, Rosemary McRobert, and Lord Hanworth, the former Assistant Director, and a high powered technical engineer, we will be able to do more than we have before. In the past we have been able to pick and choose which issues we will comment upon, and by and large this was restricted to subjects in which we were well-versed

as a result of 'Which?' researches, but now we will be undertaking new research—specifically to enable us to commit ourselves on new issues."

The list of issues, new and old, on which the Association's voice will now be heard, is long. At the top, in view of the recent relaxation of hire purchase restrictions, is the implementation of Crowther's recommendations on credit, including the abolition of the artificial difference between hire purchase and credit sales and the declaration of the true rate of interest on all agreements. Other targets for the Campaign committee's attention are the abolition of "exclusion" clauses in guarantees which take away substantial legal rights from the consumer; unit pricing, to enable easier comparison whereby, as with meat and cheese, the cost per lb is quoted on packets as well as the price of, say, 54 oz; date stamping of perishable goods and pressing the Department of Trade to bring in compulsory care labelling of textiles.

In spite of this lengthy list, the Association's main objective will still be to provide comparative test information on products and services. Most of the £2 millions raised from subscribers to "Which?" and the Association's only income will continue to be spent on this.

"The cost of increased campaigning," says Mr Goldman "is difficult to assess as most of the people involved have other responsibilities as well. But it is perfectly legitimate for us to spend some of our subscribers' money on the general consumer cause. We

already finance the "Which?" Advice Centre in Kentish Town Road at a cost of £20,000 a year, which offers free advice to all consumers on an expanding range of goods. We are also making a £20,000 grant over five years to the Institute for Consumer Ergonomics at Loughborough which complements the CA's testing programme by carrying out design studies on products, domestic equipment and such unsatisfactory aspects of the housewife's environment as today's average kitchen. We feel justified in spending money in this way and we have had no comeback from subscribers. In fact "Which?" has the highest renewal ratio—85 per cent—of any magazine in the world."

Meeting legal costs

The Association has also recently taken the unprecedented step of deciding to meet the unknown legal costs of a private individual in a test case which it believes to be of greatest importance to all consumers.

In June, Croydon magistrates, after convicting a second-hand car dealer of an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act, awarded £250 compensation to the buyer of the car, Mr Jeffrey Feldman of Hove, Sussex. The car had been described as "superb" and "excellent mechanically" but the Court found it was in very poor condition. The dealer is now appealing against conviction and sentence (a fine of £250) and is claiming that the power to award compensation under section 34 of the Magistrates' Court

Act, 1952, cannot apply to Trade Description Act cases.

The principle of law at issue is extremely important. If the award of compensation is upheld, we may expect that courts all over the country will be encouraged to make awards like this. It will be a major breakthrough in solving the problem of enforcing small consumer claims. For technical reasons Mr Feldman cannot be given legal aid and we feel we must help. It is not often that test cases of this nature come up and we don't see ourselves making it a regular feature."

With so many new commitments, the Association's income is stretched to the limit—although it expects an increase in revenue when "Handyman Which?" comes out in November. But however hard up it may feel, the Association is not interested in filling its suits with money from private enterprise or from the Government, even if it could get it. "We don't want anything other than our subscribers' money to carry on our central activities. It is a hell of an asset to be completely independent and able to thumb our noses at anyone. This independence is quite tangible. It is very moving to realise that consumers feel we are totally and incorruptibly on their side."

On the other hand we could, through our Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, a charitable sister organisation, accept money for a specific project like consumer education. I feel very sad that this aspect of the Consumer Council's work has ceased when it is growing in so many other countries. Children ought to be taught how to work out the true rate of interest when hiring a TV set instead of, say, calculating how long it takes to fill a bath with the plug out and two taps running."

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Closed gates on the Clyde

The closure of two famous shipyards on the upper Clyde is news that must stun western Scotland. The people of the Clyde valley have been here before, in the 1930's. Clydebank and Scotstoun know what it is to be haunted by the closed gates of shipyards and the shapes of unfinished ships. In the Commons yesterday the Speaker had no option but to allow the House an adjournment debate on Monday. It is the least the House can do.

On the other hand the report of Mr John Davies's advisory group on Upper Clyde Shipbuilders is only marginally more discouraging than had been forecast. Two yards will be closed instead of one. But no one except optimists supposed that all three—Clydebank, Scotstoun, and Govan—would or could be kept in business. Yesterday's statement will come as a shock to everyone on the Clyde, but the arguments behind it were foreseeable. The advisory group has done what Mr Davies asked which was to assess the viability of the Upper Clyde Group. The group's first piece of advice, to close the former John Brown yard at Clydebank, was what the old UCS management had intended to do in any case. UCS had also planned to introduce shift working at Govan. The advisers agree.

All this may make good economic sense, but its social effect will be hard, as the Commons were quick to realise in London yesterday. At best, if Mr Davies's contested estimate is right, 400 men will lose their jobs immediately (although others may join them in the dole queue later) while 1,000 others will find work on the lower Clyde or at Yarrow. At worst Mr Davies's estimate of steady continuing work for only 2,500 men at Govan could mean the loss of 5,000 of the 7,500 jobs that exist in UCS now. The best hope must be that the other shipyards on the Clyde can use good men at once and use them efficiently and that the men themselves will abandon, as they must, the tradition that every shipyard

worker should be able to walk to work. Scottish shipbuilding will perish if the shipbuilders refuse to change their habits as well as their skills.

Mr Davies says that these grave events were inevitable because, to quote his advisers, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders began as a "totally mistaken initial structure" whose managers then made serious financial and commercial mistakes. This is an indictment of the Labour Government and of Mr Wedgwood Benn in particular which may well be valid. But even if it is true it is irrelevant to the central complaint. This is that shipyards which had begun to produce as much with 7,500 manual workers as they had formerly produced with 13,500 have failed to stay alive. The yards may or may not have been mismanaged. The Labour Government's formula for sustaining them may or may not have been a good one. Mr Davies may be right when he says that there is no hope left for UCS as it now exists. But he is wrong to suppose, as he seemed to be supposing yesterday, that his responsibility ends when the duck is declared lame. What was shocking about his statement yesterday was that he never said he was sorry.

The workers' plan to occupy the yards rather than let them be closed down is understandable and in its way gallant. Yet it is an emotional response which has little relevance to the harsh economic facts that have brought the Clyde shipyards to this grim situation. Ships have to be sold at a competitive price, and from the proceeds wages are paid. There is no hope of the unions running the shipyards more effectively than the managements, however inadequate they may have been. Work in the shipyards on the Clyde will depend on making a success of a better organised industry. And that goes for work in the ancillary industries too. Workers who have spent their lives in the Clyde shipyards are naturally bitter. They have seen the work force decline from 20,000 ten years ago to a projected 6,500 under the new plan. One reason is that the industry was too long determined to live in the past.

Will Ulster boil over?

Twenty women and children demonstrated in Ulster on Wednesday against the building of a new electricity hooster station on a housing estate. But they were not concerned with amenity: they were afraid it would provide a target for terrorist bombs. This is the state to which the province has now been reduced after 234 major bomb incidents so far this year. Belfast Corporation estimates that it faces a bill for £10 millions. The political climate in Northern Ireland gives little hope of any improvement in the situation. It may sound alarmist to talk in terms of all-out civil war, but we could be only a few short steps from it. The seriousness of the situation is acknowledged in the announcement that the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Lynch, is to meet Mr Heath in London in October. But can it wait until October?

The immediate flashpoint will be the traditional Apprentice Boys' march through Londonderry on August 12—the occasion which precipitated the bloodshed two years ago. The army commander has appealed for it to be abandoned, though the organisers seem bent on going ahead. With the present explosive mood of the Bogside, to persist in pioushead madness, as it was in 1969, but the Protestants are in no mood for concessions.

The campaign of terror by the IRA has gained that much political ground. It has now produced an intransigent mood in the majority which seems to be virtually impossible to calm. If the Stormont government bans the march it now runs the risk of open defiance of its writ by

the people who nominally support it and a consequent escalation of the tension.

It is all very well for Mr Maudling to talk of tough measures and to murmur once more of interment. But a political initiative aimed at setting a middle course for the established politicians might be more to the point. It will be Whitehall that will have to pick up the pieces if Derry and Belfast start to blaze once again.

The withdrawal of the opposition parties from Stormont was a foolish reaction to a genuine political initiative by Mr Brian Faulkner and they are now impaled on their own hook. The result has been to deny their own people any sort of voice in the affairs of the province and to leave the field open to the extremists.

One essential is to get the opposition in Stormont to spell out its political programme—an exercise it has steadfastly avoided till now. All it seems prepared to do at the moment is to proclaim what it doesn't like and, while there seems to be enough of that, it hardly makes for a reasoned dialogue. A vacuum invites extremism and violence. Dawn swoops and propaganda statements impress the English more than they affect the Irish and are certainly not a policy in themselves. Mr Maudling's well-known aversion to direct rule does not mean that he can opt out of the problem altogether. It is time not only for earnest but early talking with the Republic, with the Stormont opposition, and with any other faction which admits the folly of letting Ulster boil over into a final crisis.

No charge for the compliment

Twice this week at Manchester Assizes Mr Justice Crichton has awarded damages to widows for the loss of their husbands without taking their future marriage prospects into account. The Act allowing him such a liberty does not come into effect until Monday but the judge, very properly, overlooked this detail. "If I am wrong," he said, "the Court of Appeal can put it right."

The idea of a judge deciding on behalf of his fellow men whether a widow was nubile or not always seemed a gross impertinence anyway. One man's peach, as Wodehouse put it, is another man's poison and what a judge fancies may not be to the taste of less judicial minds.

It was surely embarrassing enough for a widow in court to be inspected, like an exhibit in a fatstock show, by some sharp-eyed man in a wig, even if he hung the verbal equivalent of a "Highly Commended" ribbon around her neck. It must have been quite shattering for her less comely sister to watch the judge draw a sharp breath, shake his head sadly and, murmuring

"Oh, dear, oh, dear" to himself, award her the maximum damages permissible under the law. Hard to say which widow came off worse—the first with her damages reduced, the second with her ego destroyed.

When we consider the decisions arrived at by experts when choosing beauty queens (all those pasteurised blondes, for instance) it is obvious that whether a woman is desirable is something best left to individuals. Judges, often the least worldly of men, are hardly the individuals any of us would wish to decide upon our remarriage prospects.

Since old habits die hard, Mr Justice Crichton permitted himself to give his opinion of the widows with whom he was dealing. They were, he said, "a good-looking, pleasant woman" and "a lovely, good-looking lady." In the past such flattery would have cost the women concerned several thousand pounds a word. Now, thanks to the new Act, his remarks can be accepted as gracious compliments and pocketed along with full and due financial compensation.

A COUNTRY DIARY

KENT: The grey squirrel minced happily across the ground and came to a fallen twig. It paused and grasped the twig and did a sudden tumble, head over tail. It leapt to one side, took off on all four paws, turned in the air and, on descending, attacked the twig again and engaged in further tumbling. Then it lay on its back and lacerated the twig with its back paws, like a cat. It leapt away and proceeded across the grass with more spectacular twists and turns from its playful repertoire. I watched in complete fascination. I didn't want to interrupt the performance, but some movement I made disturbed the grey acrobat. Suddenly it turned tail and loped off to the beech tree and scrambled up the trunk, pausing three times to emit harsh cries, with the tail oscillating up and down in violent movement. In the comparative safety of the first bough, it paused again and the harsh, jay-like sounds changed to a high-pitched cry, a persistent wailing note with the tail now curled over its back in the shape of the letter "S," the point vibrating gently. Another few paces along the bough and the noise changed again, each cry concluding with a final ascending note, reminiscent of the peewits I had heard in a nearby pasture. The performance continued with a more leisurely lollap along the bough, the passage still broken by occasional warning harks and high-pitched screams until the squirrel disappeared into the upper foliage and all I could hear was the angry chatter of retreat.

JOHN T. WHITE

ANY Labour Party member who greets the National Executive's decision on Europe with unqualified delight needs either his head or his Party Card examining. And that goes for both sides of the Common Market argument. We have embarked on a course which seems certain to culminate in a substantial number of Labour MPs disagreeing with official party policy on a matter of high principle.

That ought to be a serious matter for the party as a whole—even those members who look forward to the embarrassment of some erstwhile gamekeepers. It is a matter of genuine concern to those of us who know that at the annual conference we may well win the argument, but are almost certain to lose the vote.

One thing is clear. We cannot pretend that because neither Jack Jones nor Hugh Scanlon likes the Common Market—and cast their block votes accordingly—we have suddenly been converted from beliefs held for the past ten years. No purpose could be served by such apostasy. Certainly the Labour Party's reputation would suffer from a public demonstration that a large group of its MPs lacked both courage and conviction.

The integrity of both passionate anti-Market and enthusiasts for entry is too valuable an asset for the Labour Party to squander. Men and women who voted against their conscience on such an epoch-making issue (or feared to vote at all) would rightly be despised. And little credit would come the way of a party which tried to make them.

Indeed, in the long run, the Labour Party will gain from our constancy. All the signs are that the electorate is swinging towards support for entry. By the next general election, their enthusiasm for the EEC may be the only credit the Government enjoys. During the campaign it will do the Labour Party no harm to have some determined Europeans among its members.

When the election is over it will do Harold Wilson no harm to tell other European Prime Ministers that some of his colleagues never doubted the desirability of membership.

So, in the certainty that the dictates of conscience and the interests of party coincide, Labour's determined pro-Market will stand firm. But there is a world of difference between standing firm and remaining rooted to the spot from October 1971 until the spring of 1973.

In the autumn the House of Commons will vote on the issue of entering the EEC on the terms negotiated in Brussels and Luxembourg. They may or may not be terms that a Labour Cabinet would have accepted. But they are certainly as good as this or any other Government is likely to obtain. Votes cast in October against the entry resolution are, in every practical sense, cast against entry now or ever.

For me opposition to that resolution is therefore crucial. But after that crucial resolution is carried I feel no obligation to troop through the lobbies in support of the "Harmonisation of Screw Threads (European Economic

Standing firm against standing orders

AFTER Labour's National Executive 'No' to Europe on current terms, ROY HATTERSLEY, one of the party's Front Bench Marketeers argues the case for entry—and for MPs to decide the issue according to conviction and conscience

Communities) Bill." After the historic die is cast, the consequential legislation is a matter of routine Government business. There will be a lot of it and it will hamper and hinder the progress of many other Bills. That I can face with equanimity. On the evidence of its present record, the less of this Government's domestic legislation reaches the statute book the better.

Dislike of that record and enthusiasm for Britain in Europe is all that unites Labour's Common Marketeers. The idea that we are a small group of deviants, more interested in Europe than in socialism and willing to rescue the Conservative Government rather than lose membership of the EEC contains so many errors of fact and judgment that it is incredible that anyone still honestly believe it.

Among the pro-Europeans there are no kamikaze pilots so obsessed with the target that self-destruction is willingly—indeed joyfully—accepted. Equally, for all our enthusiasm for a new Labour Government,

we cannot persuade ourselves to believe in the romantic fallacy that Governments can be "brought down."

The hard fact is that the Government cannot be brought down over Europe. The hard core of Tory anti-Europeans dwindles every day and the brave talk of 50 has already been transformed to the defiant assertion that there are still 15. By the autumn it will be even fewer. With or without Labour support, the entry resolution will be carried.

But even were that not the case, it is inconceivable that the Government would fail. Assume that the resolution is lost by six or seven votes. Assume—as is essential to the argument that the defeated Tories would be replaced by victorious Labour—that Mr Heath's Administration is ten or more per cent behind in the opinion polls. Is it, in those circumstances, remotely possible that Parliament would be dissolved? Assume even that the Prime Minister's stubbornness has escalated into a political death-wish. Is it possible

that the hard men in his Cabinet would allow him to pull the Tory temple down about their heads? Any member of Parliament could construct the motion of confidence that every Tory MP would subsequently support.

Whilst noting the wishes of the House concerning entry to the EEC... nevertheless has complete confidence... We would lose Europe, but not Mr Heath's Government. And enthusiasm for one should not be confined to members and supporters of the other.

There is an impeccable social democratic case for entering the EEC. Much of the debate at Labour's special conference—at least on the pro-Market side—was conducted on the admirable principle that there is no socialist-truth or conservative-truth, but only truth that needs no party adjective. "Not a mention of socialism" some people muttered as pro-Market left the rostrum. Yet the social democratic case for entry has always been implicit in our argument.

During the European debate one Labour MP defined the principle aim and the chief objective of his Party as the creation of state monopolies in manufacturing industry. But his view does not represent main stream British socialism. Many of us joined the Labour Party to eradicate poverty and build a less class ridden society in the belief that the schools, houses and hospitals society so badly needed could only be built in sufficient numbers by a social-democratic government.

Between 1964 and 1970 the poor stayed poor and our hopes for houses and hospitals were not fulfilled. We failed because the economy did not expand. The social democratic case for British membership begins with the belief that Europe offers economic growth, and thus provides the best prospect of financing Labour's domestic programme.

There have always been, within the Labour Party, people to whom doctrinal purity seems more important than rising living standards, and they take part in our European debate. But they can hardly claim a monopoly or loyalty to Labour Party ideals.

To those of us who see Europe as the way to extend prosperity down the British income scale as it has been extended in Germany and Belgium, joining the EEC is a matter of principle.

The Labour Party conscience can no longer be confined to drink, sex, religion and sabbath observance. The entire idea of conscience is denied if one man defines for another the areas where it is appropriate for conscience to be exercised—and prescribes those in which (according to standing orders) the application of conscience is prohibited.

Conscience cannot be confined by standing orders. Europe offers the prospect of building the sort of society many of us joined the Labour Party to create. That in itself makes the Common Market a "matter of principle." But there is more to it than that. There is a principle involved in denying what we have believed for the past ten years. We owe it to ourselves, to our party and to our conscience to stand firm. A lot of us will.



STEPS TO DECISION: Roy Jenkins, Fred Mulley and Shirley Williams before Wednesday's meeting

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A large degree of help

Sir,—It is to be hoped that adults who are thinking of applying for a place in this university as mature students are not put off by the unhappy experience which Mr Roy Jenkins apparently underwent some three years ago, at any rate as reported by Christopher Driver (Guardian, July 24).

This department offers a counselling service to would-be mature students and every year helps a score or so of them along the prescribed path. Of course, we cannot guarantee them a place; that rests with the department in which they intend to study and is also subject to their having acquired the necessary admission qualifications. But there is a path, even if the gate at the end is not automatically opened to all who knock. Nobody suggests the way is easy, but then neither is it for all those school-leavers with anything but the highest "A" level results.

Adults who have the will to spend three years studying at the university and who feel that they can show evidence of their ability to sustain the course intellectually and temperamentally are invited to phone or write for an interview with the associate professor or the deputy director of this department.—Yours sincerely,

F. W. Chandler,
Deputy Director,
Department of Extra-Mural
Studies, University of Manchester.

The restricted vote

Sir,—Dr Insley (Guardian, July 23) can hardly expect us to take his views seriously when he is clearly so ill informed about the Rhodesian Constitution. "Anyone," he says, "black, white, yellow or brown, can get on the A voters' roll." The 1970 Constitution makes no such provision. There is a European roll, which Ian Smith in his recent "Panorama" interview called, significantly, the "Rhodesian roll"; it elects 50 members. No black man can get on it; he has his own roll, whose function is to elect eight members.

"Unimpeded progress to majority rule" under this Constitution depends on income tax contributions (which the Rhodesian Chancellor has said he would like to phase out in favour of other forms of taxation), and would eventually permit the African roll to elect 24 members.

Dr Insley's other observations—about the nature of what he calls the "internal measures," which buttress the Rhodesian

police state, and the effect of sanctions on those who he calls, oddly, the "Rhodesian Negroes"—are similarly ill informed. Has he sought to investigate the workings of the emergency police powers, under which people may, and do, "disappear into gaol" (to quote a letter I received only last week) and to find out their effect on Africans?

If he had, he could not possibly draw that comparison with the wartime Regulation 18B. Has he ever heard, as I have, Africans speaking freely about sanctions, and expressing the general African opinion that they are the one guarantee of the concern of the world about Rhodesia?

Dr Insley, with his ignorance of the regime under which he lives and his lack of understanding of the people among whom he lives, is not atypical. Herein lies the tragedy of Rhodesia—Yours faithfully,

(Bishop) Kenneth Skelton,
Abbotsford Grove,
Sunderland.

Safeguards that are on tap

Sir,—The Guardian (July 26) again reminds us of the crisis in water supply that threatens Britain. We are told that more reservoirs are needed, with their accompanying loss of home, livelihood, and countryside.

Is it not time to investigate some potentially simpler and cheaper alternatives, namely,

the metering of all water so that one pays for what one uses, the rediscovery of the rain water huts to out the garden hose, increased rates for industrial users to encourage recycling.—Yours faithfully,

Ronald Pearce,
2, The Crown,
Staplehurst, Kent.

The wrangling has to stop

Sir,—Reading the letters recently published in your newspaper with regard to Harold Wilson, the Labour Party and the EEC, I feel that the whole issue is unfortunately becoming quite out of hand. Although it is difficult to present an impartial opinion on the subject, letters discussing Guardian articles have shown that the extremely important issue at hand is, like so many critical discussions these days, being dragged into the depths of personal bickering.

I feel that a subject of such importance should be kept out of party politics which it now has an obviously sickly taint. Britain does not just need party unity on the issue, but political unity. What seems a shame is that people's judgments have become clouded because of their own political creeds.

Let us make no mistake that because Roy Jenkins is honourably standing by (very honourably too) his decisions, he is not trying to effect a coup in the Labour Party. How anybody can decide that from Mr Jenkins's speech is beyond comprehension. I implore people to consider entry into the EEC, not because the Tories are handling the negotiations, not because Mr Wilson is against entry, but to consider it out of the biased lights of party and inter-party wrangling.—Yours faithfully,

S. V. Blencowe,
3 Grove Road,
Lydney, Glos.

Where do you draw the breadline?

Sir,—I was considerably surprised by your article "Survival on the Breadline" (July 26). Just where does this community of ours draw the breadline these days?

One quarter of the family in

come in each case and your correspondent bemoans the fact that milk tokens are no longer available and school meals are now priced more realistically! I'm sorry, but this falls to bring a tear to my eye. We speak glibly of the Government having a duty to make maximum use of limited resources—should this not apply also to individuals? Where does poverty end and the misallocation of personal resources begin?

To be fair, Family B are in trouble—an intelligent analysis of the figures soon picks this out—and they need all the help that the community can give them. But if this article was meant as condemnation of the Government and its heartless policies, the examples quoted are ludicrous and very wide of the mark. The Guardian readership is well aware of the genuine poverty existing in this country today in all too many

families with low incomes, but let us not cry over split school milk and self-induced hardship combined.

It will not have escaped your readers' notice, I suspect, that Family B is the only one which has been able to balance the budget this week!—Yours faithfully,

Matham Ashford,
Drumgwick Lane,
Loxwood, Sussex.

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The wives who came in from the cold

MALCOLM STUART in Birmingham on a unique refuge when husbands turn to violence

THE Hotel Clare in King's Heath, Birmingham, is one of those slightly faded Victorian houses which in most large cities become guest houses for students and white collar staff. Those were indeed the residents for most of the 17 years that Mrs Mollie Forsythe has owned the house. It was only by accident that it became an unofficial welfare centre and now increasingly a refuge for wives who have fled from their husbands.

Mrs Forsythe is the first to admit that they should not be there. Now a middle-aged widow, she has an Oxford degree and was once a school-teacher but she has no formal social service training. Yet in the Hotel Clare, in its next door annex, and in the Hotel Clarence in a neighbouring area, are 60 single women, only seven of whom have been referred to Mrs Forsythe by some voluntary or official welfare agency.

"They come here because there is no where else to go," said Mrs Forsythe. Many of the people at the Hotel Clare are long term residents but in the last year a large number of rooms have been given over to a particularly com-

plex social problem, wives who leave their husbands. Just are sent there by the Birmingham Housing Advisory Centre.

"They stay two or three weeks and then 90 per cent of them go back to their husbands," said Mrs Forsythe. "What else can they do? They have no money, the council won't rehouse them until the wives have sorted out the situation in the courts and obviously you can't exist with a family in a hotel room. "God knows what happens to the rest. All sorts of people hear about this place and last Thursday I had to turn away 21 people. The deserted wives usually come with at least one child and often more. Last month a mother came here with two children. A few days later the husband turned up with the other six and just dumped them here. If I had double the accommodation I could fill it all."

The alternative, which some wives seek in desperation, is Birmingham Corporation's hostel in Moseley Street. The mother and children can spend one night there. They can spend a second night if they present themselves to a police station after 6 p.m. This usually means wandering the streets of the city for a full day. Often Mr Stanley Messenger, who runs the Housing Advisory Centre, lets them sit in an empty room in the condemned building near the city centre. The Corporation lets him have at half the "economic" rent. Then at six o'clock he takes them round to the nearby police station.

That night in Moseley Street is the last. After that the children have to go into care and the wife must fend for herself. Or she must go back to the husband she left usually after months, if not years of varying forms of hell.

Betty was going back as she

left the hostel yesterday morning, with her children of two, six, and eight. She had a vivid bruise on her cheek which she said was a parting gift from the husband she was now returning to.

"It's been bad since my little girl was born, I don't want any more you see. Well he was out at work most of the day so I could put up with it if the children didn't see too much. But he's been laid off by BSA and he's just been hanging around. It's not the first time he's hit me and I doubt it'll be the last. I went to the Citizens Advice Bureau and they put me on to a solicitor. It was hard to tell it all to him with the children there but he said I needed a separation order."

"I'd go to my Mum, but she's been rehouse. She's just got the one bedroom and the council would put her out if we all stayed there. We've got a council house but they say they can't do

anything about the tenancy until I get a separation order."

Alderman Wallace Lawler, former Liberal MP for Birmingham Ladywood, and chairman of the Housing Advisory Centre, believes that the unaccustomed pressures of unemployment in the West Midlands are greatly increasing marriage breakdown. "We get about four cases a day here so goodness knows what the total must be in the city," he said.

One of the case workers at the HAC, Mr Ben Lee, who came to Britain from Sierra Leone 20 years ago, is finding a reverse problem in some sections of the immigrant community. "Where the husbands are getting good money they often bring other women into the house and sometimes even kick out their first family," he explained. "It's a problem almost isolated to people from Jamaica who seem to have a unique

attitude towards co-habitation. People from other West Indian islands have quite different characters while those from Africa usually bring a very strong tradition of family order with them. Unfortunately the swapping of partners seems to be a way of life for Jamaicans and they very seldom legally marry. This means the woman has little protection in law if she gets thrown out and often can't even get back in the house again."

These women also find their way to the Hotel Clare but here the children often have to be taken into care. Birmingham Corporation recognise a two year period of cohabitation as a common law marriage for purposes of qualifying for a council house but there also has to be a five year period of residence in the city to qualify. Most immigrants therefore live in the well recognised twilight areas of Birmingham where the hus-

bands often buy homes on mortgage.

"Often the woman is helping with the money, but if she is not married it's a hell of a legal fight to get anything back and usually it is not worth the trouble," Ben Lee said.

Keeping a child in care in Birmingham costs £12 a week. Alderman Lawler estimates that an average week's total of desertions costs Birmingham about £3,000. "It is the policy of the council not to accept social need as a cause for housing unless other requirements like residence or a good record of rent payments are met. But for the cost of keeping children alone some urgent action is needed to cope with these broken families," he said.

What he wants the city council to do is to set aside a group of houses as a sanctuary for mothers and children while their problems can be sorted out. "Very

often the end solution is obvious. If the wife has come from a council house, then she will get the tenancy once she obtains a separation order. But that of course takes weeks. For legal reasons the housing department will not act until then. Afterwards they do all they can. They will even move the family to a home in another part of the city to prevent the husband finding out where they are.

"But it's the weeks in between, while the welfare agencies and the lawyers are trying to find a solution. A row of houses, probably bought for clearance, with a warden living among them, does not seem too much to ask for. In the meantime we can only thank Mollie Forsythe for all she is doing."

At the Hotel Clare Mrs Forsythe charged £6 a week for full board. She can only afford the help of one woman and she is often hiked off the rent she does ask. "Sometimes I get the husbands down here to talk it over with me. Occasionally I get the impression it might work out but so often I know the wife is going back to a hopeless situation. But what else can she do?"

Films clipped

by Derek Malcolm

THE DAY when the film industry's annual audience in this country ceases to fall looks as far away as ever. Last year's provisional figures, just put out by the Cinematograph Films Council, show a drop of 14 million over 1969—not disastrous, but not, on the face of it, very hopeful for the future. Yet 199 million visits were paid to the cinema during the year, and "Love Story" hadn't even appeared, let alone Ken Russell's "The Devils."

At a time such as this it seems astonishing that Britain made 85 films last year compared with 71 in 1969 and that only 119 cinemas were closed, some to reopen again within a few months. 1,553 cinemas were licensed in 1970, only 48 fewer than the year before.

The truth is that the industry believes that it is not doing all that badly in this country. Gradually some American money, which left in a hurry a couple of years ago, is coming back again. Gradually, too, distributors and exhibitors are beginning to realise that things have changed since the forties and fifties when there was still a captive audience for the twice-weekly fodder.

Plans are going ahead for more and more multiple cinemas, replacing the giant white elephants of the Rank and ABC circuits, while chains such as the Classics are doing better business with a coherent policy of providing slightly 'à la carte' fare if only with re-runs.

The general complaint seems to be not a lack of films at all, nor a lack of audiences, but a chronic shortage of the right sort of cinemas. More films are held up because there is nowhere outside London and the major cities to book them than for any other reason.

The fact that there are too many cinemas that are much too big inevitably means that discriminating movie-goers are the worst hit of all. Foreign language films, for which there is a loyal and not all that tiny minority audience, have never had more difficulty in being shown. At the other end of the scale, the jumbo movies still pack them in, though their number is not what it was. And the Carry Ons carry on. The industry reckons that it is the middle tier that is their problem. "Whip 'em on, whip 'em off" is a slogan that dies hard.



Numeiri in crisis: tears for Arab unity?

Numeiri speaks his mind

Jesse Lewis in Khartoum, Thursday, as the Sudan leader meets the press

SUDAN'S head of State, General Jaafar Numeiri, indirectly accused the Soviet and other Communist powers of "disfiguring the news" about the current crackdown on Leftists yesterday, and warned that it could lead to a worsening of Sudanese-Soviet relations if the press attacks continue.

"I do not want any deterioration with the Soviet Union or other Socialist countries. But if they choose that path we will have no alternative," Numeiri said. "All we did was take action against Sudan insurrectionists."

In the past week 14 people including the leader of the Sudanese Communist Party have been executed for participating in a pro-Communist coup that ousted Numeiri for three days. More than 1,000 others whom the Government says are Communists have been arrested.

The crackdown has been strongly condemned by the official Soviet news agency, Tass, and by European Communist groups. Tass said Numeiri's regime was conducting a campaign of "bloody terror and fanning anti-Communism."

"What would you do to people who massacred innocents and mutilated them? What would you do to people who gave instructions to others to eliminate all under their custody?" Numeiri said, gesturing with his hands

while sitting on a deep blue sofa in his office. "The only reason more bloodshed by the rebels was not carried out is because some people were deterred by Sudanese morals."

In what was described as an "informal get-together," nine foreign correspondents were invited to Numeiri's office and executive staff building in the spacious and heavily guarded presidential palace grounds. Last week, it was the scene of heavy fighting.

He spoke in Arabic and an aide translated his replies into English, but Numeiri, who speaks English, did not wait for a translation of the questions. Numeiri was dressed in a dark green fatigue uniform with the gold insignia of major-general rank on red epaulettes. During the session he also made these points:

— King Hussein of Jordan is the leader of a "gang trying to eradicate not only guerrillas but the Palestinian people" and "a king who betrays his people and the Arab nation." But he said he did not favour "expelling Jordan from the Arab League as proposed by Libya's leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi."

— Avoiding direct comment on the persistent rumours of Soviet involvement in the abortive coup, Numeiri said: "I do not know whether the Soviet Union was involved. So far we have no evidence.

We are still assembling the facts."

— A worsening of relations with the Eastern bloc would not mean an improvement with the United States. The two countries do not have formal diplomatic relations.

The Sudan's attitude "to the United States is influenced by its position towards Israel and that situation has not changed because of the events in the Sudan," he said.

The press conference was dominated by questions about relations between the Sudan and Russia. Numeiri said that Russian military advisers "are on the verge" of leaving Sudan and that some left before the pro-Communist coup. He did not comment on reports that some Russian advisers have left within the past few days as witnessed by qualified observers.

When asked whether Sudan would break relations with any country that was discovered to have been connected with the coup, he replied: "If I tell you (that) from the outset I will have no other alternative. I can say with assurance that relations would deteriorate."

Several times he said he felt the punishment of the convicted plotters matched what they had done during their three days in power and during the fighting that followed the counter-coup. Nineteen captive pro-Numeiri officers were reported beaten

or shot to death by their guards on orders when the counter-coup began. According to well-placed sources, when Numeiri saw the bodies he made the decision to crush the Communists.

Although the Communist Party has been illegal for several years in the Sudan, the organisation remained intact under the leadership of Abdul Khalk Mahjub, who was hanged early yesterday. Numeiri said today that before he was convicted Mahjub confessed to being involved in the plot and offered to make available the tapes of his confession and documents that showed this. However, correspondents who attended the first portion of Mahjub's trial heard him deny any involvement in the plot.

Why did the Soviet Union react so strongly to Sudan's crackdown on Communists and not so intensely against Egypt and Iraq, both of which have banned the party and put many members in prison? Numeiri explained that "a lot of propaganda" for 12 years had portrayed the Sudanese Communist Party as Africa's and the Arab world's largest and most powerful. This was not true, he said, "the influence of the Communist Party is insignificant."

Numeiri's judgment is at sharp variance with that of diplomatic analysts. — Washington Post.

Peace in its place

Simon Hoggart reports from Belfast: Thursday

IN the hideous days of August, 1969, in Belfast, when large areas of the city were in a state of panic, perhaps the only spark of hope came from the peace committees. The committees were all based on local churches — Catholic, Protestant, and even Jewish — and each at first their hundreds of members patrolled the long, gloomy, working-class streets of east and north Belfast, the historical flashpoints and the areas where any troubles speeding from the west would have had an appalling effect on the city's industry.

They scotched the rumours which could have led to riots, they protected the hundreds of people whose homes had been threatened, and they spent hour after weary hour arguing with groups and gangs of youths who were roaming round spoiling for trouble.

Now the immediate threat of riot has died down in these areas but the committees have continued to work, forming, some people believe, the most genuine ecumenical movement in the UK, forged through necessity and not theological intellectually.

In North Belfast, for example, where virtually every church in the district is engaged in the committee, they are helping with community action — pressing the council for better conditions. This summer the North Belfast committee sent 21 youngsters for a holiday in England. Half were from the New Lodge Road, a militant

Catholic area, and half from Tiger Bay, just as militant a Protestant district. Normally such hours outside their doors. Often these threats aren't serious but people like this desperately need reassurance. We show them that we know what is happening and that they will get protection.

It is not always quite so easy. Vicious shooting and rioting did break out in East Belfast earlier this year, and the peace committee lost a lot of ground. Rumours — for example that a Catholic church was harbouring snipers or that a tea factory was about to sack all its Protestant workers — flared up and led to mobs forming before the rumours could be checked. But equally the fact that there has been so little trouble in a district which was the city's traditional flashpoint is a remarkable testimony to the work of the committee.

Now the committees have a standing conference and are seeking new ways of broadening their work. The new Minister for Community Relations, Mr David Bleakley, who himself formed the East Belfast committee in 1969, believes that paradoxically the riots are bringing some people closer together in the community. "It has been said that this is a country of two peoples who have no songs, no emblems, no churches, and no festivals in common — two peoples who have forced themselves into their own mental ghettos. I think we are learning that this just need not be so."

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MISCELLANY

Booker bang

MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE has withdrawn himself from the panel of judges of Britain's most valuable literary award, the £5,000 Booker Prize for fiction — "owing," as the Publishers' Association coyly puts it, "to a general lack of sympathy with entries."

Which can be taken to mean that he found the 30 or so books sent to him too mediocre and pornographic to be worth bothering about. To be fair to the Mugs, he let it be known when he joined the panel that he did not think he was going to enjoy it much.

Entries for the award close



today—two from each of the publishers most of whom are trying to build up the award and the British novel a hit of good. If any publisher has sent in anything particularly wicked this year, then he has kept quiet about it. The judges (John Groom, Antonio Fraser, Saul Bellow, John Fowles, to be joined by Philip Toynbee) have not yet met officially. Those that have heard of Muggeridge's departure have indicated that they will at least themselves, and soldier on.

Cool Porter

AMERICA'S new chief delegate to the Vietnam peace talks, William Porter, confirmed this week and braced to take charge now that David Bruce has made his farewells in Paris, was a British subject until he was 22. Porter and his mother moved to Massachusetts to live with relations after his father, a naval officer, had been killed in the First World War.

He has the reputation of being a skilled but unconventional negotiator with little liking for the niceties of protocol. Soon after he became the American Ambassador to South Korea, he was awakened late one night by an aide who mumbled apologetically that His Excellency should be at Seoul airport next morning at 6.30 to meet the South Korean President, who was returning unexpectedly from abroad.

Porter hesitated, then said: "Tell the protocol officer that protocol begins at 8 a.m." The President was unmet.

Whiz of Oz

THE INEVITABLE paperback of the "OZ" trial is inevitably winging its way to its publishers. Tony Palmer, maker and chronicler of trends, yesterday delivered the first five of 10 chapters to Anthony Blond and Desmond Briggs. It will be the first title of their new joint imprint.

Palmer sat through the whole trial and will produce the remaining five chapters in time for publication early in September. Type by IBM, the magic lamp of most instant paperbacks. The cover is being designed by Alan Aldridge's firm, Graffiti. The book will be distributed by Moore Harness, who handle much of the underground press, and will be sold like a magazine. An expensive magazine: 50p a time.

Mass medium

SPURRED by a gathering protest movement among South African Catholics, distressed at the hierarchy's mild response to the house arrest of Father Desmond, the priest's family in London is breaking its own silence.

Teressa Desmond, Father Cosmas's sister, says that her elderly parents are angry and

upset that his order, the Franciscans (Friars Minor), in London have not even telephoned, let alone sent anyone to comfort them. "They could have done with some support," she says. "If the Cosmos worked for ICI and this happened, they would surely have sent someone to express their sympathy. His is a Christian organisation."

Father Cosmas is the author of "The Discarded People," a painful exposure of life for Africans in the resettlement camps where they are sent after being cleared from "white" areas. He was put under house arrest in Johannesburg last month, and cannot even attend mass on Sundays. Teresa Desmond says that the Franciscan Provincial did issue a strong press statement at the time, but that was all.

Father Sylvester, director of the Missionary Union, says that the Provincial is now abroad. He himself was ill when Desmond was restricted. "Possibly there was some confusion here. We probably should have sent someone."

● INCENSED by Sir Keith Joseph's inquiry into the abuses of Supplementary Benefits (the scroungers, the workshy, and all the other spectres of Tory suburbia), the Claimants' Union set up its own counter-inquiry into the abuses of social security officers. Written in the union's own words, it represents claimants in distress, asking

for information about the scroungers, the workshy, et al. The union's answer is written on this piece of paper, your workshy.

Fugle call

WHAT DID Harold Wilson say about the permissible limits of cheating at patience? Was it "tall-fudging," as recorded by Terry Coleman in Tuesday's Guardian? Or was it "call-fudging," as suggested by Granville Sharp now of Sussex, once of Cleckheaton (see yesterday's correspondence column)?

Well, first Harold's own version. What he says he said was "call-fudging," with the same meaning as Granville Sharp: a polite Yorkshire word for swindling, cheating, deception or humbug.

Over now to Harold Orton, Emeritus Professor at the University of Leeds, and a founder of the English Dialect Survey. "Tall-fudging" is out of court. Coleman's tape recorder evidently got it wrong. Agreed. But either "call-fudging" or "call-fudging" would pass.

"How interesting," says the good professor, "that Mr Wilson should use this word. It pins him down so thoroughly as a West Riding man." The root of both words is the verb "fugle," first recorded in writing in 1719: "Who fugged the parson's fine maid?" Deceived, you understand, just deceived.

Finance for Expansion



40 Park House, 40 Knightsbridge, London SW1 0Y1-235 8866

BUSINESS GUARDIAN

Guardian City Offices: 831 Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.2

Edited by Anthony Harris and Charles Raw


 Radiospares
for all
electronic
components

Gold hits highest level for two years

Gold reached a new two-year high in the market yesterday, as the price moved up to \$424.50 in late trading. This was 17 cents up from the afternoon fixing and 39 cents more than the price quoted on Wednesday.

In spite of this, dealers suggested that turnover yesterday was lower than earlier in the week, but that a combination of heavy continental demand and little selling was keeping up the present momentum. There were indications that some Americans have been buying illegally, and the hands-on effect is already apparent, so that any increase in price causes still higher prices.

One metal that has done well from the present uncertainty over currencies is silver, which was particularly active yesterday. Here, too, American interest has been apparent. The morning price rose by 1.6 p to more than the previous day's level and some dealers suggest that its present movements are only restoring its old relationship with gold.

The currency markets were generally quiet, though in Frankfurt yesterday the dollar dipped below the 3.46 DM level at the close after the Bundesbank had sold perhaps \$50 or \$100 millions. But dealers said that the fall was partly because dollars sold yesterday will not be delivered until Monday, which would leave holders stranded with dollars over the weekend—the traditional time central banks choose to announce parity changes. In London the dollar moved up very slightly on technical factors covering winding up of the end of the month were probably responsible.

Watney share play broke code—GM

By LINDSAY VINCENT

Grand Metropolitan Hotels is considering an appeal to the Takeover Panel over the tactics adopted by Watney Mann in its latest attempt to acquire the £46.5 millions Truman Hanbury Buxton group.

As expected, Watney Mann yesterday gave intention of making another bid—its fourth—for Truman and while terms have not yet been fixed they will give Truman shares a value of over 430p. This compares with the 409p bid from GM which Truman is recommending.

The basis of GM's discontent is the novel method whereby Watney has amassed funds to allow it to buy Truman shares on the market "in a big way." GM's advisers, S. C. Warburg, claim that Watney has breached rule 32 of the takeover code. Watney already has around 26 per cent of Truman's shares, more than double the GM's firm holding in Truman, so if it could be up to, say 40 per cent through the market, it would stand a good chance of defeating GM. Clearly Watney expects Truman and Whitbread with its vital 10.7 per cent stake) to stick with GM so its energies will be concentrated toward the uncommitted Truman shareholders.

In order to raise funds for the open market operation, Watney has come up with a unique scheme. Basically, it has sold some of its Truman shares to unnamed financial institutions, at a discount on the current market price, to raise money. In exchange, the institutions have promised Watney that these shares will

EVEN AS Cavenham Foods' Mr Jimmy Goldsmith laid his £12.7 millions counter-bid for food manufacturer Bovril on the table yesterday it was trumped by a mysterious newcomer.

An early report revealed that Mr Juan del Azar, an Argentine businessman and a director of Harrods (Buenos Aires) had turned up in London announcing his intention of making a cash bid for Bovril. Mr del Azar, it was reported, is a member of a consortium rumoured to include Peruvian interests. Later Mr del Azar is reported to have said "No proposal has yet been formulated and I cannot yet say whether my proposals will be forthcoming."

be exchanged for Watney paper when Watney makes its offer unconditional.

The institutions, thought to have taken several million pounds worth of Truman shares, are not fully committed to Watney but as they have been given an opportunity of getting into the situation on advantageous terms, it seems highly unlikely that they would turn round and sell to GM.

Without this complication, Watney's chances of success appear better than at any time throughout the prolonged struggle for Truman, which, whatever its eventual fate, has the distinction of being the most expensive takeover in history.

Backing up its new attempt, Watney has made public the profit forecast given by Truman in the private discussions. At £8.5 millions, pre-tax profits for 1970 will show a rise of 14.4 per cent. As the first half profits were virtually static profits in the second half will move up by 19.4 per cent.

Should its bid be successful, Watney says there will be no dilution of earnings. Savings arising from the merger could be as much as £1 million in the second year and "still larger thereafter."

When the old John Brown shipyard of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders closes, it will leave behind probably the most successful recent industrial development in the early 1950s. Although the Government has decided that the gates of the yard will soon close on 2,000 shipbuilding workers, they will remain open for the 1,500 workers of John Brown Engineering.

Six years ago, the plant was the marine engineering division of the yard, struggling to push its turnover up to £2 millions and squirming with embarrassment at the well-publicised difficulties with the engines it built for the QE2. Today, the management has orders worth £20 millions and is displaying its Queen's Award for Industry.

The company's success has nothing to do with shipbuilding. From the moment it was separated from the shipyard in 1965, it has turned its back on the industry with unqualified success.

Marine engineering had an

By our Financial Staff

In spite of the vagueness of the consortium's apparent intentions, the stock market was sufficiently impressed by Mr del Azar's intervention to push the price of Bovril's shares up to 44p. Cavenham's long-awaited counter-bid, worth 422p a share, to the Rowntree Mackintosh offer was left behind.

Mr del Azar, reports said, represents a group of six companies with interests in cattle, banking, property, insurance and meat packing. They have apparently acquired a "fair percentage" of Bovril shares on the London market.

Mr del Azar would eventually have to get Bank of

England permission for any deal he offers Bovril shareholders. In the meantime the Takeover Panel will clearly want to keep a close eye on the situation and find out as much about Mr del Azar as it can.

If the £15 millions offer is not forthcoming a false market in Bovril shares will have been created. The panel will expect Mr del Azar to declare himself formally before the Rowntree Mackintosh bid closes on August 13.

While the Bovril share price fed on the rumours of the new bid, it emerged that Mr del Azar has had discussions with Rowntree about the possible buying-off of Bovril's Argentine interests.

John Brown survives UCS

By BRIAN WHITE

Earlier warning of the present crisis than shipbuilding itself. As the shipbuilding boom of the early 1950s subsided, owners were in a strong position to dictate to suppliers what sort of engines should be used. Unable to maintain the volume necessary for economic production, John Brown's engineering division sagged.

So it was not surprising that when it was given its independence, it turned to new fields. "In 1965," says the managing director, Mr Graham Strachan, "we signed our agreement with General Electric of America. This gave us our first break-away of any significance from the marine market."

Astonished

The agreement was to build General Electric's gas turbine engines, and even John Brown's management has been astonished by its success. In 1967 the company built four, in 1968 eight, in 1969 ten, and completed 27 in 1970.

With each of the turbines costing about £750,000, the turnover this year is expected to be £20 millions, a tenfold increase on the best that could be achieved in the old days of marine engineering. Ironically

the company is hoping to break back into the marine business with the turbines. General Electric has already had some success in this sphere, and Mr Strachan says: "The marine gas turbine looks extremely promising for certain types of ships."

In effect, a new company has been created in the 100-year-old works at Clydebank, with 90 per cent of its business in gas turbines and most of the remainder accounted for by industrial compressors.

The transition from marine engineering, however, has not been without its problems, the worst of which was the failure to realise how successful the business was going to be. This happy mistake has involved several changes in the factory layout to accommodate the increasing load.

At the moment there can be little spare capacity. The inherited labour force of 1,000 has been increased to 11,500, and while there are no immediate plans to increase it further, the trend is likely to be upwards in the long term. The management has also been increased from 15 to 50 with the infusion of new blood from outside.

Once the most hopeless part of a shipbuilding complex, John Brown Engineering now appears to be the only bit likely to survive.

DTI demands safeguards on Dover Plan

By STEWART FLEMING

Under pressure from the Department of Trade and Industry, International Life Insurance announced yesterday that it is taking steps to insulate itself from the boardroom troubles of its parent company, Inestor's Overseas Services (IOS).

The ILL announcement said that "in accordance with the requirements indicated to it by the DTI it will maintain certain precautionary measures to insulate the company and its policyholders from the difficulties and discussions of its shareholders" (of IOS LTD).

The announcement is significant, not only in the context of ILL itself, but also in the context of British life insurance as a whole. For in making these demands on ILL the Department would appear to be exceeding its powers as they have generally been interpreted. That the DTI has decided to act can be seen as a clear indication of its concern about the security of life assurance companies, concern which is being expressed both in public and private by leading figures in the business.

The requirements which the DTI has apparently asked ILL to observe indicate some of those areas of UK life insurance legislation which the Department sees as inadequate. The great area of weakness in the legislation is undoubtedly the supervision of policyholders' assets. Here the DTI has, according to an ILL spokesman, asked the company to maintain in the hands of a "custodian bank" assets (documents of title and share certificates) equal to the firm's UK liabilities. The bank is, says ILL, a UK clearing bank. But it has refused to allow its name to be released—a decision which is perplexing and open to criticism.

—and reminiscent of all those unaffected first class bank which were once going to say IOS.

The DTI has also asked ILL not to make loans to the officer of the company or to associate companies and not to invest in these companies. It is an injunction which ILL maintains is not necessary since it has not been making loans or investments of this type.

International Life also claims yesterday that negotiations have been taking place for some months with "a major British Institution, for a form of trusteeship of assets of the life fund, and substantial progress has been made."

Although ILL at least appears to be taking positive action from the whims of the owner, and hence the ultimate managers of the company—IOS Ltd—the situation as it stands is still not satisfactory.

It is not yet clear, for example, whether the steps the company has taken fully measure up to the DTI's requirements. Moreover the requirement that a bank should maintain assets equal to the liabilities of ILL presumes a valuation of these liabilities, a not uncontentious issue. And the fact that the custodian "clearing bank" is not prepared to have its name linked with ILL casts some doubts on the viability of the whole exercise.

It is also important what "form" the eventual "trusteeship" of assets takes and who the trustee is. At the extreme, trusteeship implies giving the trustees power to take decisions over the heads of the ILL management in London and the IOS Ltd management wherever they may be. It seems unlikely that the companies would submit to this imposition.

CITY COMMENT

REED INTERNATIONAL

Optimism justified

MR DON RYDER, chairman of Reed International, justified his restrained optimistic prediction of a month ago, with the first quarter figures issued to shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting.

Trading profits have risen from £5.1 millions to £5.4 millions, after some again interest charges of £2.3 millions and depreciation of £2.3 millions. Associated companies have performed much better, however, and with the inclusion of the share of earnings from these associates for the first time, the comparative pre-tax profit figure is £6.3 millions, against £5.2 millions for the first three months of last year.

Certainly Mr Ryder was right to look for the growth to come from overseas rather than the UK. While sales at home in these three months slipped from £95.7 to £94.9 millions, overseas sales leaped from £27 millions to £31.4 millions.

Anyway, with a lower tax charge now in force, and with some again minorities, the increase at the net attributable level was a straight £1 million at £3.1 millions. So earnings per share were running at 4.1p in the first three months this year, compared with only 3p in the comparative period a year ago.

With the slightly more optimistic tone that the Chancellor's

Budget booster has provided and the wide spread of interests and products which the group boasts (and Mr Ryder stresses that "paper and board produced in the UK by Reed now contributes no more than 3 per cent of the corporate profits") there is no reason why this first quarter performance should not be kept up for the rest of the year. This implies a rise in earnings per share from an historic 11p to the 16 to 16.1p range.

This is a good deal better than the indications little more than a month ago, and small wonder that the shares bounded 16p to 232p yesterday as the figures were interpreted.

Even now they stand on an indicated price earnings ratio in the region of 14.

RANK

No simple answers

UNDAUNTED by its experience so far with diversification schemes the Rank Organisation is pressing forward with new plans to broaden its base by launching a £12-million agreed takeover bid for City Wall Properties.

Disappointed that the bidder was Rank and not some new glamour firm, and also with the share exchange terms dealers marked City Wall shares down 26p to 187p. Surprised too that Rank had learned no lessons from its past expansion moves in fields outside Xerography, dealers marked Rank "A"

shares down sharply, also by 36p to 814p. This lowered the terms of the bid—four Rank "A" ordinary for every 19 City Wall ordinary—from an initial 17p to only 17.1p a share.

Rank made no special attempt to justify the move. "It's simply diversification," said a spokesman. "We are interested in property development because of our own interests in property."

That put a different complexion on things. Did Rank propose to utilise City Wall's management experience on its own property sites? Well, no, not exactly, because "we already have strong management in our own property development division."

Some rationalisation benefits then from merging the two. Or perhaps City Wall owns some sites adjacent to Rank interests? Or have those keen fellows in Rank's own property division spotted some especially interesting plum in City Wall's £21-million property portfolio?

No, no and no again. It really is just a diversification attempt. The two sides will be kept apart, and City Wall will continue to operate as hitherto with existing management and staff.

Still, takeover fever is sweeping the City and it is only natural that Rank has caught the disease. Rank might, in fact, argue that it is bowing out shareholders in a property firm on a price earnings ratio of a little over 33 with its own paper on a P/E of 36.9. But this would be to ignore the fact that Rank would still be giving away a share of future growth really belonging to its existing shareholders.

Such growth is still expected, from Xerography at least. No one can really expect growth on property investments (as distinct from speculative development) to ever notch up growth rates on a par with the Xerox group. Moreover there is always the danger of sensitive shareholders opting for the alternative offer with large cash element.

VOSPER

Results hit by strike

MANAGEMENTS of even the best ordered shipyards are in the front line for headaches. The latest example of this is provided by Vosper whose first half results were hit by the £220,000 cost of a strike.

Pre-tax profit for the six months to end April slumped to £116,000, but the board forecasts a recovery to more than £600,000 for a full year which is better than last time, earning down the £820,000 earned in the previous 16 months to an annual basis.

The decision to pay a 6p per cent interim on the capital enlarged by a two-for-five rights issue, which, it is intended, should be followed by a final of 9p per cent was shrugged off

by the stock market where the shares dropped 7p to 614p. A lot of things have got to go right if the hopes of the board are to be fulfilled. There must be no interruptions to the work flow (a happy thought for a shipyard) both on the building of ships and repairs.

It must be hoped too that the ship repair work switched elsewhere during the dispute will fully return. Meanwhile Vosper has a "large and healthy order book" including a Brazilian order for frigates and a high level of inquiries, but a group which does large-scale business with the developing countries obviously operates in a politically sensitive sector.

The main query about Vosper is that it is still harking in a tax holiday which should last for another 18 months. If potential earnings of 40 per cent are to be maintained, the group will need to step its profit up from £800,000 to £1 million when the tax holiday is over, which one might think, is rather a tall order.

FASHION & GENERAL

You have to be quick

THE BID FOR Westminster Trust has equally important implications for Fashion and General Investments, for by the time the bid effects find their way through to the next balance sheet, it should double book net asset backing per Fashion and General share.

The last balance sheet of Fashion and General showed investments at cost—including 3.57 per cent of the Westminster equity—some 382,870 shares. Additionally there was a £400,000 unquoted investment consisting of £400,000 7½ per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1978 of Westminster Trust, convertible any time before December 31, 1978, into ordinary shares at a price equivalent to 28.33p per Westminster share.

To take this latter holding first, with the bid worth 80p per share the convertible stock can now be valued at a figure around £730,000. This gives a surplus on this investment of £330,000 for shareholders.

Coming to the quoted investments, there was already a surplus on book value of £173,000 at the last year-end of March 31, 1971, with the Westminster shares valued at just under 49p per share. The further appreciation at 80p is worth £118,690 giving a grand surplus here for shareholders of £291,690.

In total, then, there should be available a surplus of £620,000 for shareholders, which should not raise any tax problems since the bid is a paper one.

This surplus is worth 41.39p per Fashion share, which added to the book figure of 43.49p brings total net assets up to a shade under 85p per share. Too bad that the shares leapt from 68p to just this level.

TRIUMPH INVESTMENT TRUST

Earnings per share 40% higher

'Looking at the Group now, I see it at the end of the year in a very much stronger position than it was in at the beginning'

The following are extracts from the Statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. G. T. Whyte, for the year ended 31st March, 1971.

PROFITS AND DIVIDEND INCREASED

The net pre-tax group profit has increased from £2,540,000 to £3,374,000 while net after tax earnings per share have risen from 38.3% (9.58p per share) to 53.8% (13.45p per share) an increase of 40%.

The Directors recommend a final dividend of 21% making a total of 33% for the year (26%). Despite the challenges of the past year we have succeeded in maintaining the overall growth of the Group. In particular, we have made two excellent additions to our Group, the Resolute Insurance Companies and the Metal Scrap & By-Products group of companies.

TRIUMPH INSURANCE COMPANY

For the third year running this company has produced a really splendid growth in profits. It goes forward with the desired combination of soundness and progressive outlook.

RESOLUTE INSURANCE COMPANIES

This very important acquisition has a large network of agents throughout the U.S.A. The companies' net tangible asset position is very strong and will support a substantial increase in business.

METAL SCRAP & BY-PRODUCTS LTD.

The second major acquisition carried out during the year was that of Metal Scrap & By-Products Limited. The investment though something of a new departure is perfectly in accordance with our declared principle of acquiring only companies which harmonize with existing interests.

BANKING ACTIVITIES

Our banking activities, concentrated in G. T. Whyte & Company Limited and its subsidiaries, have now reached a stage at which the increasing level of deposits is leading to the employment of liquid resources in the money market.

ENTRY INTO UNIT TRUST FIELD

I said last year that I believed we could expand much further in the field of financial services and I see no reason at this moment to alter my opinion. We have just made our first venture into the unit trust field by the acquisition of the management companies of the Oceanic Group of Unit Trusts.

STRENGTHENED POSITION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking at the Group now, I see it at the end of the year in a very much stronger position than it was in at the beginning. Its strength arises not merely from the very valuable and significant acquisitions made but also from underlying factors which are less easy to see. We know that areas which have not shown any improvement in profit during this last year have, in fact, now been consolidated and are poised for future growth.

THE CURRENT YEAR

I shall be very disappointed if at this time next year I am not reviewing yet one more year in which profits and earnings per share have satisfactorily increased.

SEVEN YEAR RECORD

(figures adjusted for capitalisation issues and changes in the basis of taxation)

Year ended 31st March	Group profits before taxation £'000s	Earnings per share p	Gross dividend paid per share p
1965	49	0.70	0.56
1966	168	1.66	1.13
1967	221	2.18	1.13
1968	344	3.09	2.00
1969	1,296	6.76	2.07
1970	2,154	9.58	6.50
1971	3,374	13.45	8.25

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, Triumph Investment Trust Ltd., Pinners Hall, Austin Friars, London, EC2N 2HR.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 1971

Once again record profits were achieved despite difficult trading conditions

Mr. H. Kreitzman
Chairman

Sir John E. Cohen
Life President

TESCO

Gains in turnover since 1st March, 1971 are significantly greater than the corresponding period last year and I am hopeful that this is likely to continue.

In spite of keen competition in the Supermarket Field generally, we have been able to increase our margin on sales to 5.32% (1970 5.25%). The increased sales in our Home 'n' Wear Division during the past year have certainly influenced this position.

Whilst we are not acquiring any Supermarket sites of less than 20,000 sq. ft. we are now actively negotiating for at least 12 out of town hypermarkets.

We are currently involved in investigating the possible entry to Europe as a logical extension of our future expansion programme.

Year	Turnover	Net Profit	Net Profit	Dividends	Dividends	Earnings	Earnings	Cash
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	per share	per share	(new pence)	(new pence)	Flow
1967	110,000	9,000	1,800	1.90	1.74	3.50	3.50	4,500
1968	126,233	8,212	1,597	2.01	0.90	3.08	4.94	4,943
1969	191,405	10,907	5,531	2,289	0.98	2.97	6,714	6,714
1970	268,437	12,508	6,857	3,471	1.67	2.83	8,861	8,861
1971	299,258	13,683	8,708	2,868	1.60	3.48	9,368	9,368

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts is obtainable from The Secretary at Tesco House, Delaware Road, Chesham, Waltham Cross, Bucks.

TESCO STORES (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Nixon threat to status of the 'Fed'

By Richard F. Janssen and Albert R. Hunt

Washington, July 29. — THE WHITE HOUSE has intensified its differences with the Federal Reserve Board, threatening it would move to end the agency's independence. Analysts said such action could spark a major international monetary crisis and strain President Nixon's relations with the United States Congress and with the financial community.

President Nixon's aims in what could become a confrontation of historic proportions, close observers suggest, are probably these:

—To persuade Federal Reserve chairman, Mr. Arthur F. Burns, to stop saying the Nixon Administration is not doing enough to limit wage and price increases.

—To embarrass Mr. Burns, either to diminish his impact on public opinion or to force him to resign and make room for a more docile central bank head.

—To prepare the way for putting the blame on the Federal Reserve in case inflation and unemployment are political handicaps in 1972.

That the President might also want to support legislation for bringing the Federal Reserve under White House control—as a White House aide summoned a reporter on Monday night to suggest—is less apparent.

The more overt phase of the White House dispute with the Federal Reserve came when a presidential aide called in a reporter to tell him that Mr. Nixon "has under serious consideration legislative recommendations, in which many of his principal advisers concur, that specifically would bring the Federal Reserve into the executive branch."

The President is "furious," this aide said, that Mr. Burns repeatedly and publicly calls for a stronger "incomes policy," particularly a wage-price review board to seek voluntary restraint.

The "final straw," this official went on, was Mr. Burns's testimony on Friday before the joint economic committee, in which he stressed that there had not been any "substantial progress" against inflation. The President is tired of hearing from bankers and businessmen, the aide said, that "the great Arthur" is contradicting Mr. Nixon's assertions that the economy is recovering satisfactorily with considerable progress against inflation.

Asked about such stories, Mr. Ronald Ziegler, presidential press secretary, took a defensive position between supporting and denying them, thereby keeping alive the potential threat to the Federal Reserve. The President "is not giving consideration at this time" to ending the Federal Reserve's independence directly or as one account has it, indirectly by doubling its size so he could name seven additional members, Mr. Ziegler said.

But he declined to rule out the possibility that some members of the White House staff might be talking about reorganising the board. Asked if Mr. Nixon retained his confidence in Mr. Burns, Mr. Ziegler said he had no "personal" knowledge of any change.

Mr. Ziegler passed up opportunities to disavow the more personal aspects of Nixon

Administration criticism of the Federal Reserve. The main reason for any economic shortcomings of present, the other aide had complained, is "the advice he (Mr. Burns) gave the President two years ago." The aide charged that the chairman was being "hypocritical" about inflation because he had been "trying to get his own salary raised" to \$82,500 from \$42,500.

Mr. Ziegler said there had been "some discussion" of raises for various agency heads, which budget officials separately said Mr. Nixon had rejected. Later, a Federal Reserve spokesman said that Mr. Burns "has not requested any salary increase," but otherwise had no comment on the statements of the various White House aides.

One immediate effect is fresh straining of relationships within the Administration. "We disassociate ourselves from any involvement" with efforts to curb the Federal Reserve, a spokesman for chairman Mr. Paul W. McCracken, of the President's Council of Economic Advisors said. A Treasury official expressed deep doubt

that the secretary, Mr. Connolly, would take part in such a "clumsy" manoeuvre.

Budget director Mr. George P. Shultz might well support White House control of the Federal Reserve, however, other sources said. They cited his strong reliance on rapid money-supply growth as the main expansionary policy and his great disdain for "incomes policy," or wage-price machinery.

Such White House staff strategists as Mr. Charles W. Colson and Mr. Peter M. Flanagan are also logical supporters of efforts to put pressure on the Federal Reserve, other insiders suggested.

Continuation of uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's status potentially could damage the US economy itself, some outside analysts contend. Even talk about bringing the Federal Reserve under White House control "could really shatter confidence overseas" in the soundness of the dollar, said Mr. Maurice Mann, a former Federal Reserve and Budget Office official and now executive vice-president of Western Pennsylv-

ania National Bank, Pittsburgh.

Privately, such fears are voiced by some Nixon Administration men, too. It is "shocking," one economist says, for the White House to surface its hostility to the Federal Reserve on the same day the Government is disclosing such disquieting developments as a big budget deficit, a big trade deficit and a downturn in "leading" indicators of future output.

The major danger in making the monetary policy managers responsible to the White House, defenders of the Federal Reserve's independence say, is that over the long term, the President will be more likely to press for overly expansionary policies, resulting in temporarily favourable employment gains but in permanently worsened inflation.

Monetary policy should be "insulated from political pressures," said an official of the American Bankers' Association, who expects the ABA to remain "very firm and steadfast" in defence of the Federal Reserve's present status.

The basic case for White House control of the Federal Reserve, Nixon Administration men say, is that it is not fair for voters to judge any President on the economy's performance when one of the two key economic policy levers is kept out of his reach.

This sentiment has been quietly voiced by Nixon aides, partly because they tend to place primary emphasis on monetary policy, in contrast with Democratic predecessors who ranked fiscal, or tax-and-spending policy, as the most important tool.

However, many economists have argued, any President should want to preserve at least the image of an independent central bank so it can apply necessary but unpleasant anti-inflationary remedies, such as tight credit and high interest rates, without the President being blamed.

The Federal Reserve's arch critic, chairman Mr. Wright Patman of the House of Representatives banking committee, said he would favour giving the Administration a hearing "if it is serious about efforts to reform the Federal Reserve." Mr. Patman noted his own position that the reserve should be "accountable to the Congress, the executive branch and, more importantly, to the people," but stressed that he held these views long before the appointment of Mr. Burns in early 1970. He added that Mr. Burns was "doing a good job within an impossible agency structure."

Over the years, Mr. Patman has complained that the 14-year term of board members unduly insulates them from the popular will and that the heads of the 12 district Federal Reserve banks, who are not Presidential appointees, inject too much of a private banker influence into monetary policy. Federal Reserve officials themselves have expressed some sympathy for the idea of shortening terms and reducing the number of board seats to five, but have not pressed the point.—AP-Dow Jones

HOUSE OF FRASER LIMITED

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR 5 YEARS (£'000)

Year ended January	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Sales	99,502	101,173	108,284	117,893	140,183
Profit before Taxation	5,373	5,974	6,187	5,613	7,290
Taxation—On Profit	2,009	2,401	2,592	2,244	2,567
—On Dividends	1,165	1,165	1,219	1,268	1,429
	3,174	3,566	3,811	3,512	3,996
Net Profit available to Members	1,842	2,063	2,356	2,092	3,246
Dividends paid to Members (net)	1,660	1,660	1,736	1,807	2,167
Profit retained	303	479	812	286	1,324
Depreciation	625	614	620	775	922
	928	1,093	1,432	1,063	2,246

The Chairman, Sir Hugh Fraser, Bt., in his Statement with the Accounts for the year to 30th January, 1971, comments:

Turnover, Trading Profit and Net Profit attributable to Members all reached record figures.

Extensive capital expenditure has been incurred in extending and improving existing stores and those recently acquired. This has to a large extent been financed by the disposal of properties considered surplus to the Group's requirements.

A bonus issue has been recommended of 1 new Ordinary Share for every 10 held.

It is proposed to increase the authorised capital of the Company from £12,372,708 (of which £11,655,872 has been issued) to £20,000,000.

Thanks are due to all members of the staff for the enthusiasm and effort which they have displayed in making possible the results now reported.

MAYBROOK PROPERTIES LIMITED

Report and Accounts 1971

In his annual statement circulated to shareholders, the Chairman, Mr. L. E. Manoussos, reported:

- * Annual Revenue increased to £479,555 compared to £399,133.
- * Net Profit after Tax and minority interests increased to £104,999 compared to £91,310.
- * Dividend raised from 7% to 8%.
- * Book value of portfolio now £5,968,755.
- * Cost of projects in hand about £4,750,000 and increasing profits anticipated.

The Maybrook Group of Companies
199 Piccadilly London W1.

CONCRETE LIMITED

Another satisfactory year

Extract from the circulated statement of Sir Kenneth Wood (Chairman and Joint Managing Director) to be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held at Hounslow on the 20th August, 1971.

Year to 31st March	1971	1970
	£000	£000
Completed Structural Work by Group	17,360	18,333
Group Profit before Tax	1,018	1,229
Ordinary Dividends (Gross)	365	342
Profit Retained	277	307
Depreciation	885	848

DIVIDEND

Our Directors have recommended an increased final dividend of 2½p per share making 4p for the year compared with 3½p for the previous year. This continues the policy since the shares were first quoted in 1957 of increasing the shareholders' return each year. This is particularly important when the rising cost of living has affected the company's shareholders equally with its employees.

PROSPECTS

Our order book for frame buildings including car parks and hotels is very healthy and turnover during this year that field will exceed comfortably that of system housing. Its increase together with that of flooring will replace the continued fall in the turnover in housing which this year will comprise little over 25 per cent. of our work load. Any large orders which we expected to receive in 1970 are delayed for financial reasons until April or May so that this year has had a quiet start and although activity will increase as the year progresses it seems likely that turnover will not expand during the current year. However, recent Government actions, especially the new system of slum clearance subsidy, must eventually be very much to our advantage and it seems possible that the expenditure in development areas and other refinancing operations may have an effect on our turnover late in this year. We are in a period of fundamental change in Government policy, as well as in our own products, so that any prediction of profits is particularly difficult and under these circumstances I can only say that this year's profits will be adequate but not exciting.

Forward indications are more promising than they have been for some time and we believe that turnover will increase again in the reasonably near future. During this year we have improved our products and our operating efficiency. We have fine manufacturing facilities and have written down and competition is greatly reduced. We, therefore, are optimistic for the future.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Concrete Limited, Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex.

TATE OF LEEDS LTD

Salient points from the circulated statement of the retiring Chairman, Mr. Thomas Tate.

- * I am pleased to report a substantial improvement with the year's profits being £53,649 before taxation (1969: £12,481 loss). A dividend of 7% is recommended.
- * The progress made in the sale of cars has been most encouraging. Other car activities including those of Tate of Wetherby Ltd. have contributed well to the company's profit. During the year, the company has gained a Ford Rallye Sport Franchise which has begun well.
- * Tate Trucks Ltd. again had a record year and the results of Tate (J.C.B.) Ltd. have been most satisfactory.
- * The current year began with two excellent months. However due to the strike at Ford Motor Company Ltd. new vehicles became unobtainable and the lack of spare parts restricted our parts and service business. There is a continuing strong demand for Ford products but unless Ford Motor Company Ltd. can produce in considerable volume for the rest of the year, the effect of the strike will be reflected in the car and truck results. Tate (J.C.B.) Ltd. continue to produce a very satisfactory return.

US drop takes its toll

The continued steep decline on Wall Street in the face of growing labour unrest and another massive US trade deficit finally took its toll yesterday. Share prices retreated throughout the day on small, but persistent, selling so that, at the finish, losses were in the vast majority around all the industrial sectors.

Shortly before the close the FT Index had suffered its biggest one-day fall for more than six weeks. It finally closed 6.5 lower at 404.2. In spite of the gloom trading statements prompted a handful of bright spots, and there was renewed activity on the bid front. Bovril provided the day's outstanding feature following a revised Cavenham Foods offer and on expectations that Beechams may yet enter the fray.

In addition, an Argentine consortium was reported to be preparing a cash bid for the company. Bovril closed at 430p, a leap of 30p.

Truman Hambury Buxton came back to life after the recent lull, jumping 12p to 430p on the conviction (later proved correct) that Watney Mann were about to step up their offer in sharp contrast with other bid situations. City Wall Properties slumped 26p to 167½p an acute disappointment with the agreed terms of an offer from Rank Organisation.

Other good features usually reflected company news items. Notable among these was Reed International, which soared 10p to 22½p in response to the 21 per cent advance in first-quarter profits. It was falls all the way around the rest of the industrial sections, with the leaders losing as much as 7p a time. Stocks under American influence were particularly hard hit.

The number of bargains marked totalled 12,940, compared with 13,189 on Wednesday and 13,653 last Thursday.

Wall Street

The New York stock market closed sharply lower yesterday as declines led advances by a six-to-one margin. The Dow Jones industrial index dropped 10.59 points to 861.42, bringing its decline since the start of the week to more than 27 points.

Analysts cited the generally negative news background and the market's technical condition as the main reasons for the continuing decline.

The strike at four US railways and an announcement by the Ford Motor Company that it was closing some of its plants next week because of the strike affected the overall picture. Investors also had to take a threatened steel strike into consideration.

£8 M bid for Westminster

Land Securities Investment is bidding £8.6 million for Westminster Trust Holding, a property investment, development and construction firm with a £14 million portfolio.

Terms are £80 nominal of convertible unsecured loan stock 1985 of Land Securities for every 100 ordinary shares in Westminster. The loan stock will carry interest of only 3 per cent until March 31, 1977, and then at the rate of 8½ per cent when it will rank pari passu with the existing convertible stock.

This bid values each Westminster share at around 80p a share against a market level of 57p. Holders of the equivalent of 51 per cent of the equity have already undertaken, or indicated their willingness, to accept the bid, which has been agreed by the boards and their advisers.

Swiss observer for IOS bank

The Swiss Banking Commission has appointed an observer to the IOS Ltd-controlled Overseas Development Bank (ODB) following unsuccessful efforts by three Swiss directors to remove Mr Robert Vesco and two of his colleagues from the board, an IOS spokesman said.

The observer's function, the IOS spokesman indicated, would be to determine whether any of the legal actions taken by the two sides warrants intervention by the Banking Commission. The commission supervises and regulates the nation's banking industry.

Swiss directors, led by Mr Jacques Wittmer, bank secretary, held an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on Tuesday to act on a one-item agenda: removal of Mr Vesco, chairman of IOS and International Controls Corporation, New Jersey, Mr Milton Melsner and Mr Ulrich Strickler, both associates of Mr Vesco. However, there was an insufficient number of shares represented at the meeting for a quorum.

IOS insiders said the tactic was designed to embarrass Mr Vesco, who is facing legal challenges in the United States and Canada. As an IOS subsidiary, IOS Financial Holdings, owns the controlling shares of the bank, there is not much likelihood of Mr Vesco and his colleagues being removed, insiders note.

Mr Vesco has been temporarily enjoined from acting as an IOS officer because of alleged stock voting irregularities.

A Federal court in New Jersey ruled on Wednesday that Mr Vesco and International Controls had to comply with subpoenas by the US Securities and Exchange Commission

requesting information about Vesco's involvement with IOS.

In a counter-move in Switzerland, lawyers for Mr Vesco asked a Geneva court to call a general ODB meeting at which the three Swiss directors could be removed. An IOS spokesman said the three Swiss directors could not be removed at the extraordinary meeting because under Swiss law only the published agenda can be acted on.

The spokesman said the court order was necessary because the bank's secretary, Mr Wittmer, had refused to call a general meeting.

The spokesman confirmed, however, that the three Swiss directors have charged in a Geneva court that Mr Vesco arranged to have IOS preferred shares, which were deposited at the bank as collateral for loans removed from the bank and voted at the IOS annual meeting in Toronto.

The pound

	Current Market Rates	Previous Closing Rates
N. York	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Switzerland	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
France	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Germany	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Italy	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Spain	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Portugal	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Greece	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Turkey	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
India	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Japan	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
South Africa	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Canada	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Australia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Argentina	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Brazil	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Chile	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Colombia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Cuba	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Czechoslovakia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Dominican Republic	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Ecuador	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
El Salvador	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Honduras	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Indonesia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Israel	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Kenya	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Malaysia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Malta	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Mexico	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Morocco	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Netherlands	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Norway	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Peru	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Pakistan	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Paraguay	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Puerto Rico	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Romania	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Russia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Saudi Arabia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Senegal	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Seychelles	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Singapore	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Sri Lanka	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Sweden	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Switzerland	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Taiwan	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Tanzania	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Thailand	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Togo	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Tunisia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Turkey	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Uganda	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Ukraine	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Uruguay	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Venezuela	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Zambia	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2
Zimbabwe	2.46 1/2-2.47 1/2	2.47 1/2-2.48 1/2

Montagu Trust Limited

Strategically placed for the future

The Chairman, Mr F D O'Brien Newman, reports:

This year we have continued the expansion and consolidation of the group's international interests. Development has taken place in both the banking and insurance sectors of the group's business and in all parts of the world.

The group profit after tax for the year to 31 March 1971 increased by £336,000 to £3,379,000. The overall increase of 11% does not reflect fully the outstanding profit increase reported by our insurance broking subsidiaries because the banking side of the group reported slightly lower profits.

The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 14% this year compared with 13% last year.

The group has been built up to provide a diversified and continually expanding range of banking, insurance and other financial services over an increasing area of the world and I am convinced that we are well placed to meet the challenge of the year ahead.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	Year ended 31 March 1971	1970
	£000	£000
Profit after tax		
Banking	1,760	1,826
Insurance broking	1,822	1,302
Insurance underwriting	88	15
	3,670	3,143
Central management expenses and long term loan interest	(291)	(100)
Group Profit after tax	3,379	3,043
Proposed Dividend	(1,440)	(1,336)
Profit added to reserves	1,939	1,707
Result per fully paid share		
Disclosed earnings	8.21p	7.40p
Dividend	3.50p	3.25p

MONTAGU TRUST LIMITED HAS SUBSIDIARY OR ASSOCIATED COMPANIES IN AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BENLUX, CANADA, EIRE, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HOLLAND, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, MALAYSIA, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, U.K. AND U.S.A.

Copies of the report on the year ended 31 March 1971, can be obtained from the Group Secretariat, Montagu Trust Limited, 114 Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HY.

WILLIAM PRESS & SON, LIMITED

INDUST

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT & COMPONENTS

WATNEY MANN LIMITED



THE OFFER FOR TRUMAN HANBURY BUXTON & COMPANY, LIMITED

The Board of Watney Mann Limited ("Watney") announced in connection with their bid for Truman Hanbury Buxton & Company, Limited ("Truman"):-

New Watney Offer

Watney submitted on Monday, 19th July to the Board of Truman a revised bid which was not recommended by them. The details of this bid are as follows:—

For every 10 Truman ordinary shares

15 Watney ordinary shares; plus

£10 11% convertible unsecured loan stock 1991/96 of Watney convertible between 1976 and 1983 into Watney ordinary shares at 75p per share (to command a price of 173p per £1 of stock); plus

11 International Distillers and Vintners Limited ordinary shares.

The new Watney Offer consisted entirely of equity after conversion whereas the revised offer by Grand Metropolitan Hotels Limited ("G.M.H.") is less than 70% equity based. The Watney proposals would maintain shareholders' pre-dominant interest in the firmly based and growing beer, wines and spirits industry.

The new Watney Offer is still worth more than the latest G.M.H. bid.

Watney Profit Forecast

Watney forecasts profits available to ordinary shareholders for the year to 30th September 1971 of £8.5 million compared with £7.6 million for 1970 (after charging in 1971 non-recurring reorganisation expenditure of £350,000 after tax).

Benefits of the Merger

The benefits will arise mainly from:-

Watney's ability to double the throughput of Truman's new brewery within 12 months.

Watney's skills in retailing, proved in Schooner Inns and St. George's Taverns.

The estimated profits of Truman for a year to 30th September 1972 (given to the Directors of Watney in order to enable them to formulate terms) and Watney's estimate of revenue savings in the first year of combined operations mean that Watney's ordinary shareholders could not be involved in more than a negligible dilution, if any, in earnings as a result of the Offer.

Savings directly attributable to the merger are expected to rise to £1,000,000 in the second year, with still larger annual savings thereafter. These savings are additional to the forecast growth of profits in Truman itself.

Truman Staff and Employees

Watney, whose reputation in industrial relations is of the highest order, has given to the Board of Truman firm assurances that redundancies, affecting at most a total of 260 people over six years, will be kept to an absolute minimum. This accords with existing Watney policy for the treatment of its own people. In fact, there will be more jobs for brewery workers in the East End of London after 1977 if this merger takes place than if it does not.

Watney, which now owns over 25% of Truman, has never bid without the support of the other Board. In this case, however, Watney will make an offer at least equivalent to the value of the new Watney Offer set out above.

**TRUMAN SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD
THEREFORE IGNORE THE OFFER
FROM G.M.H.**

This advertisement is issued by Guinness Mahon & Co. Limited on behalf of Watney Mann Limited.

A duly authorised committee of the Board of Watney Mann Limited has considered this advertisement and the members of the committee respectively accept, individually and collectively, responsibility therefor and consider that no material factors or considerations have been omitted.

29th July 1971.

J. B. Eastwood passes final as fowl pest bites

Poor results were expected from J. B. Eastwood, the poultry group, and the dividend is being slashed. No final is being paid this time as the company has lost 90 per cent last year. Profit before tax has slumped from £2,833,000 to £1,086,000 and after tax from £1,549,000 to £644,000.

The setback was mainly due to the effect of fowl pest and to some extent the increase in the price of feedstuffs. The selling price of eggs and chickens in the last three months of the year the company made a loss, but has traded at a profit since the early part of April.

During the current year the high cost of feedstuffs has been offset by higher selling prices, but the effect of fowl pest continues to be serious, particularly in the broiler production division of the company.

Given the improvements hoped for by the board, however, the second half of 1971-2 should see a recovery.

Improved offer for trusts

First National Developments has made improved offers for the shares of the London Investment Trust, Second Northern and London Investment Trust, and Acire Investment Trust.

The terms are £7.70 cash for each ordinary share in the London Investment Trust, £8.45 cash for each ordinary share in Second Northern, and £7.70 cash for each ordinary share in Acire.

Galliford raises layout five points

The dividend of Galliford states is being stepped up by five points, a final of 30 per cent making 40 per cent for 1970-71. The pre-tax profit was £426,000 in the pre-tax profit from an increase from £172,000 to £337,000 in the turnover, but the latest figure shows £18,800 arising from the sale of all the shares acquired.

At May 31, the premises owned by the group and the properties held for investment are valued at £1,281,000, being an increase over book value of £1,010,000.

profits recovery for Caister

The Caister Group, whose interests take in holiday camps, caravan sites, and motor homes, has a sharp profits recovery in 1970-71, but with a final of 15 per cent, the total dividend remains at 25 per cent. Although turnover slipped from £4,371,326 to £4,291,294, pre-tax profit rose from £264,745 to £268,489.

Bookings at the company's camps and on boats are good and the motor division is said to be in better shape to make profits. In fact the board is confident of being able to report an increase in profits for the current year. The freehold property has been revalued and a resulting net surplus of £9,357 credited to reserves.

lockman and onrad gains

Blackman and Conrad, the twin manufacturers, is stepping its interim dividend up by two pence to 14 pence. Pre-tax profit rose from £124,752 to £151,000 in the six months to March 31 and the group's affairs are still moving in the right direction.

Excluding any contribution from Fawcett Bros. and Allison, which have been

acquired recently, the directors look for a pre-tax profit of not less than £350,000 for the whole of 1970-71, against £286,733. On this basis, they would pay a final of 18 per cent making a total of 33 per cent, against 29 per cent.

Montague Meyer beats setback

The first half setback by Montague Meyer, the timber group, was followed by a strong recovery, and shareholders are to receive one point more, a final of 8 per cent making a 12 per cent total for 1970-71, against 11 per cent. An increase from £59,900,000 to £60,000,000 in the turnover, produced a rise from £1,077,036 to £1,081,492 in the trading profit. Investment income has dropped sharply from £215,526 to £124,589, but the pre-tax profit still registers a rise of 18 per cent, from £1,466,081 to £1,581,081.

The latest figures do not include any profits from the acquisition since March 31 of George E. Gray Holdings and of the controlling interest in Sumaccon Holdings.

International Stores results

Uninspiring results come from International Stores, which is maintaining its total dividend for 1970-71 at 11 per cent with a final of 9 per cent. An increase from £108,631,712 to £112,181,748 in sales has produced the slightly lower pre-tax profit of £2,782,131, against £2,806,540.

The lower tax charge of £1,071,500 (£1,177,500), the net profit has moved up from £1,620,040 to £1,710,631.

The directors believe that the interests in land and buildings (mainly shops) and other assets earned in the year a net profit of £2 million. As projected capital spending seems likely to top the £1.7 million mark, the board remains expansion minded.

Eva Industries ahead strongly

An increase of more than 25 per cent in the profit available for stockholders for 1970-71 is reported by Eva Industries, the Manchester-based engineering group, and with a final of 12 per cent, total dividend is stepped up from 27 per cent to 39 per cent.

From £688,000 to £767,000 and after all charges, including £258,000 (£287,000) for tax, net attributable profit has increased from £368,000 to £462,000. In a comment on the figures, the chairman, Mr Roy Astley, indicates that although profits earned in Thailand and East Africa have shown an "acceptable progression," the sharp advance by the group as a whole mainly stems from organic growth by almost all the UK companies.

E. Dingle offer unconditional

Sir Hugh Fraser, the chairman of the House of Fraser, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that sufficient acceptances had been received in connection with the offer for the issued share of E. Dingle and Company to enable the offer to be declared unconditional.

Sufficient acceptances have also been received to date to enable the Waterford-Harrods offer to be declared unconditional.

CLASSIFIED GUARDIAN

21 John Street, London WC 1.

Telephone 01-837 7011

Situations advertising 20.50 per line, Semi-Display 35.50 p.p. single column inch. Displayed (inside a box and using bold type, block, etc.). Situations £10.00 per single column inch. Property £7.00 per single column inch. Births, Marriages, and Deaths 50.50 per line. Copy should be received two days prior to the date of insertion required. There is a standard charge of 40.50 for the use of Postal Box numbers.

General Manager

The task of the man who takes this job is to get a fine engineering enterprise moving again. He will have entire responsibility for developing all aspects of marketing, production, and control, to create a profitable, self-contained business unit. Success in this role should lead to top management openings in Wm. Brandt's industrial group.

He will find an established product with a good name, sound financial and managerial backing, and a new works in the right place (an attractive bit of North-West England).

The task is to get profitable growth going in the right parts of the market for the company's engineering products. (Plastics moulding machines form the base for the range.)

A record of running at least part of a business making a profit in the open market, preferably for industrial machinery, is essential. So is an engineering qualification. Probably early 30's - a man now earning around £4,000 p.a.

THE FACULTIES M. J. Graham-Jones PARTNERSHIP 26 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1



CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SENIOR PLANNING OFFICERS

(£2,106-£2,556 p.a.)

These posts are in the Policy and Research Division. Vacancies for an Economist Planner and a Sociological Planner exist in the Socio-Economic Group. This group will work in conjunction with a sub-regional planning team on the development of analytical, data banking and monitoring techniques; social research; preparation (in collaboration with other departments) of standards for the future planning of housing, social facilities, education and leisure; formulation of policies for employment and shopping.

The third vacancy is in the Traffic and Transportation Group for work on the City's overall transportation policy. General local government conditions apply and assistance is given towards household removal expenses, etc., in appropriate cases.

Further details and application forms, returnable by 16th August, 1971, from the City Planning Officer, Wilburforce House, 25 The Strand, Liverpool, L2 7QA Stanley Holmes, Chief Executive & Town Clerk.

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND RANGER-NATURALIST TRAINING

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons who wish to join a one year training course for Ranger/Naturalists.

The course which commences in OCTOBER, 1971, will be open to either graduates in natural history subjects or those who have working or professional experience on estates, farms or reserves. Naturalist candidates with a country background are considered particularly suitable.

Grants will be paid during training. Application forms and further details are available only by writing to: The Secretary, The National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DU. Envelopes should be clearly marked R/NAT. Closing date for Applications - 9th August 1971.

YORK CITIZENS' THEATRE TRUST LIMITED THEATRE ROYAL, YORK & OPERA HOUSE, SCARBOROUGH

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the above post. The York Theatre is open all the year and the post also includes the direction of the Scarborough Opera House which is a seasonal theatre. The post provides opportunities for a wide variety of activities both within the Trust's own theatres and in the wider community. The post is a full time position in each year. The commencing salary will be between £2,000 and £2,500 per annum. Details of the post and further particulars may be obtained from the Chairman, The York Citizens' Theatre Trust Limited, 66 Middlethorpe Drive, York, YO2 2NA to whom applications should be made before the 21st August 1971.

DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS

P.O.I (d) £2,850 to £3,258

The person appointed will be head of the Museums Department which comprises the Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Natural History Museum, Industrial Museum and the Victoria Street Art Gallery.

Applicants should be holders of the Diploma of the Museums Association (or equivalent qualification) with about ten years' post qualification experience.

Further details from: The Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer, Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Closing date for applications 23rd August, 1971. Please quote Reference DM/C.

CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

CARPET DESIGNER

required, preferably with Gripper Axminster experience, with a view to appointment as

DEPUTY CHIEF DESIGNER

Attractive salary and pension provisions. Removal expenses paid. Apply in confidence to: Managing Director, TRAFFORD CARPETS LIMITED, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1PX.

HALIFAX EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Administrative Assistant-AP2 £1,272-£1,515

The post covers a wide variety of work including administrative duties concerning sites and buildings, preparation of reports on adaptations to schools and liaison with Borough Architect's Department on adaptations and repairs and maintenance of buildings. The Administrative Assistant would work directly to the Senior Assistant Education Officer who has special responsibility for development work.

Relevant experience or training in the above field is essential. Housing accommodation may be made available if required and 50% removal expenses up to a maximum payment of £50 will be paid.

Further details can be obtained from the Senior Assistant Education Officer, Tel. Halifax 65344. Applications forms obtainable from the Deputy Chief Education Officer, Education Office, West House, Halifax, returnable by 13th August, 1971.



PLATT PLATT INTERNATIONAL LTD

TEXTILE CHEMIST/TECHNOLOGIST

is required with H.N.C. or equivalent to run a small, well-equipped laboratory acting in support of Fibre Process Development Work.

Applicants should be familiar with general chemical and analytical techniques, and experienced in synthetic fibre processing and photomicroscopy would be an advantage.

Apply in writing to: The Works Manager, PLATT INTERNATIONAL LTD., Research Centre, Holcombe Road, Helmsdale, Rosendale, B84 4NG. Tel: Rosendale (07062) 4933.



Senior Stock Controller for Mail Order

Due to the continued expansion of the Mail Order Division a senior appointment is to be made to strengthen our centralised stock control unit.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of centralised and computerised stock control systems and should be fully versed in the use of stock control and computer techniques in relation to fast selling consumer durables.

For the man, who is a self starter of proven ability in his field and of sufficient calibre to maintain his skills in a challenging situation, an attractive salary will be negotiated and will be conducive in encouraging him to join this small but dynamic enterprise. This will be in accord with the degree of importance attached to this responsible position and will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Please write, in first instance, giving full details of qualifications and career history to date to:

Mr. R. C. Cory, Merchandise Manager, J. C. GRAYES (1967) LTD., Sir John Holden Mill, Blackburn Road, Bolton, Lancs.

ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Textile Engineering Manchester Area

To join the small, highly flexible financial team of a British company with associated companies overseas. Essentially this is an opportunity to gain experience of all aspects of management accounting, together with the probability of significant involvement in overseas work. Previous industrial experience necessary, preferably in capital equipment. Knowledge of export contracts useful. Professional qualifications (Accounting or Secretarial) vital. Linguistic ability - an asset. Promotion prospects in U.K. or abroad. Preferred age mid 20's. Initial salary up to £2,100. Reference: 30642/GH (P. T. Humphrey)

All letters will be treated in strictest confidence and should be addressed to the consultant quoting the reference number.

AIC Executive Selection Division 1 PRINCESS STREET - MANCHESTER 2

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

A Public Company, employing over 2,000 operatives in various footwear manufacturing units requires, due to expansion, a young Chartered Accountant at its Burnley Office.

The successful candidate will, initially, be required to assist the existing team in the development of Financial and Management Accounting procedures, and subsequently to assume responsibility for these functions for certain units within the Group. The position offers excellent prospects, and generous pension rights. Salary will be by negotiation, and according to experience. Applications in writing, giving details of age, education, and previous experience, should be addressed to:

Mr. M. Walsley, F.C.A., LAMBERT HOWARTH GROUP LIMITED, Healey Royd, Burnley.

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT/SECRETARY

MARLAND SCOWCROFT LIMITED is the parent company of a group of steel stockists, accountants and engineering companies. The successful applicant will be responsible for the preparation of monthly internal accounts, and annual accounts for audit of the operating company, and consolidated accounts for the group. Applicants should have had some years' experience in a senior accounting position, and preferably be aged 28/40. Only in possession of A. LEE, MARLAND SCOWCROFT LIMITED, BROMLEY CROSS, BILTM 87 5PP.

CONTINUING EXPANSION MEANS THAT WE NEED PUBLICATIONS

require an experienced REPRESENTATIVE

(Age 23-30 approx.)

to develop existing clients and promote new business in the LANCASHIRE AREA

Good basic salary and commission provide an initial income of at least £1,400

Company car provided, plus expenses. Fringe benefits, bonus schemes, pension, etc. For application forms write to:

The Sales Director, SELL'S PUBLICATIONS LTD., 39 East Street, Epsom, Surrey. Local interviews arranged.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

Applications are invited for two posts:

1. REGIONAL DIRECTOR in the North-West based on Manchester.

2. REGIONAL DIRECTOR in the Midlands based on Stafford on Avon.

These posts call for exceptional administrative ability and a flair for organising and leading voluntary workers raising funds for the Seamen's Society. Salary £2,400 per annum. A weekly holiday. Men aged 45-55 should apply, quoting three references (including one from a Seamen's Society official). The General Secretary, St. Michael's Paternoster Quay, London, EC4R 3NL.

SALES MANAGER

required by a public company engaged in service industries. Suitable candidates must have proven sales ability and experience in organising sales forces and organising a sales office. Salary and commission negotiable. Company car provided, with staying full details and interview arrangements to: 21 John Street, London W.C.1.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

EDUCATIONAL

Birkenhead Education Committee

CALLISTON YOUTH CLUB (Gateshead) Commencing September, 1971. FULL-TIME CLUB LEADER

Applications are invited from qualified men or women for the post of Full-time Club Leader for the Calliston Youth Club, which is a flourishing youth club, which has a flourishing programme of activities for its members. The Club is situated in the Calliston area of Birkenhead. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Saturdays. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Sundays. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Bank Holidays. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Public Holidays. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Christmas Day. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on New Year's Day. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Good Friday. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Easter Monday. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Whit Monday. The Club is open from 10.15 to 11.15 p.m. on Bank Holiday. 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